

December 8, 2024  
The Honorable Philip D. Murphy  
Governor of New Jersey  
Office of the Governor  
State House  
P.O. Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

## **Subject: Urgent Concerns Regarding Nighttime Drone Flights Over Morris County**

Dear Governor Murphy,

We, the undersigned Mayors of Morris County, write to you with deep concern regarding the ongoing nighttime drone flights that have been observed across our communities, from the Township of Pequannock to the Township of Washington and all areas in between. These flights, occurring under the cover of darkness, have raised significant alarm among the more than 500,000 County residents and local officials alike.

While the benefits of drone technology are widely recognized when used responsibly and transparently, the lack of information and clarity regarding these operations has caused fear and frustration among our constituents. Despite inquiries made to relevant authorities, we have yet to receive satisfactory answers about the purpose, operators, or safety protocols governing these flights.

Our concerns are multifaceted and urgent:

- 1. Public Safety:** The nighttime drone flights pose a potential threat to both air traffic and residents on the ground. Recently in nearby Somerset County, a medivac helicopter was denied landing at an accident site due to drone activity. In the absence of clarity regarding the operators' qualifications and adherence to FAA regulations, the risk of accidents cannot be ignored.
- 2. Privacy and Security:** Residents have expressed legitimate concerns about their privacy and the possibility of surveillance without consent. These fears erode trust in local and state governance when no credible explanations are provided.
- 3. Community Well-Being:** The persistent drone activity has caused unnecessary stress, particularly among families with young children and seniors. The noise and unpredictable flight patterns disrupt the peace and quiet that our communities value.
- 4. Air Space Restrictions:** Private businesses that rely on drones to survey properties have not been able to conduct that business.

As Mayors, it is our duty to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents. However, our efforts to address these concerns have been hindered by the lack of information available to us. This situation is untenable, and we respectfully urge your office to take immediate action to provide transparency and address these issues.

We request the following actions:

- 1. A full investigation into the nighttime drone flights to determine their origin, purpose, and compliance with all applicable regulations.**
- 2. Clear communication to local officials, law enforcement, and residents regarding the findings of this investigation.**
- 3. Implementation of measures to prevent unauthorized or unsafe drone operations within Morris County in the future.**

Governor Murphy, the safety and peace of mind of our residents are at stake. We trust that your office will treat this matter with the urgency and seriousness it warrants. We are committed to working collaboratively with your administration to resolve this issue and restore confidence in the safety and security of our communities.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter. We look forward to your prompt response.

Respectfully,

Ryan Herd  
Mayor  
Pequanock Township

Matthew Murello  
Mayor  
Washington Township

Thomas Ace Gallagher  
Mayor  
Hanover Township

Joe Jackson  
Mayor  
Rockaway Township

Christine Serrano  
Glassner  
Mayor  
Borough of Mendham

Guy Piserchia  
Mayor  
Long Hill Township

Matthew S. Kayne,  
DMD  
Mayor  
Montville Township

Thomas Mulligan  
Mayor  
Rockaway Borough

Joe Nicastro  
Mayor  
Mount Olive Township

James Barberio  
Mayor  
Parsippany- Troy Hills  
Township

Bill Chegwidden  
Mayor  
Wharton Borough

Sarah Neibart  
Mayor  
Mendham Township

Michael Stanzilis  
Mayor  
Mount Arlington  
Borough

Paul Carelli  
Mayor  
Borough of Riverdale

Janet Hoven  
Mayor  
Chester Borough

Jacqueline Albrecht  
Mayor  
Roxbury Township

Tim Drag  
Mayor  
Chester Township

Sam Morris  
Mayor  
Mine Hill Township

Joseph Pannullo  
Mayor  
East Hanover  
Township

Mark Taylor  
Mayor  
Florham park  
Borough

Eric Wilsusen  
Mayor  
Jefferson Township

**CC:**

- The Honorable Mikie Sherrill, U.S. Representative, 11th Congressional District
- The Honorable Cory Booker Senior Senator
- The Honorable Thomas H. Kean Jr., U.S. Congressman 7th District
- The Honorable Jon Bramnick, State Senator, District 21
- The Honorable Michele Matsikoudis, State Assemblywoman, District 21
- The Honorable Nancy Munoz, State Assemblywoman, District 21
- The Honorable Parker Space, State Senator, District 24
- The Honorable Dawn Fantasia, State Assemblywoman, District 24
- The Honorable Mike Inganamort, State Assemblyman, District 24
- The Honorable Anthony Bucco, State State Senator, District 25
- The Honorable Aura Dunn, State Assemblywoman, District 25
- The Honorable Christian Barranco, State Assemblyman, District 25
- The Honorable Joe Pennacchio, State Senator, District 26
- The Honorable Jay Webber, State Assemblyman, District 26
- The Honorable Brian Bergan, Assemblyman, District 26
- Morris County Board of Commissioners