

Port Authority should keep its helicopters

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Letters to the Editor/The Star-Ledger



Mitsu Yasukawa/ The Star-Ledger

A Port Authority helicopter hovers over the Newark skyline.

Agency best suited to pick up tab

The arrogance of the Port Authority continues to be on display, without challenge, in the July 15 article headlined "P.A. pulling plug on its copter unit," July 16.

In the article, Stephen Sigmund, a Port Authority spokesman, claims the agency's revenue is declining while at the same time the region's needs continue to grow, which requires the Port Authority to meet those needs. Sigmund goes on to say that if police helicopters are needed, the Port Authority Police Department can call on the NYPD, the New Jersey State Police and the City of Newark for their airborne assistance.

Now, let me see if I have this right. The Port Authority, which generates revenue through user fees and not taxpayer dollars, is claiming it does not want to spend the money on police helicopters but, instead, wants to shift that expense to the taxpayers of New York City, the state of New Jersey and the city of Newark.

If I am right, then I say let's compare the balance sheet of the Port Authority to that of New York City, New Jersey and Newark and see who is better able to pay, the Port Authority or the taxpayers.

Bobby Egbert, Port Authority Police Benevolent Association