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GLOBAL GATEWAY ALLIANCE OUTLINES 5 STEP PLAN FOR SAFER DRONE USE

*INCLUDES MANDATORY GEO-FENCING TECHNOLOGY FOR DRONES; STRICTER
ENFORCEMENT OF “NO FLY ZONES”*

(NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY) – The Global Gateway Alliance today called for five key steps to make drone use in the New York area safer for passengers and flights, following recent incidents in the New York airspace, putting passengers, planes, and airports at risk. The steps include having the FAA better enforce designated “No Fly Zones” and requiring drones be equipped with built-in geo-fencing software to prevent them from entering off limits areas.

Although drones tend to be relatively small, with diameters spanning only a few feet, they can have effects similar to bird strikes when sucked into jet engines or causing a plane to divert from its planned route.

The FAA is currently considering a proposed rule to regulate drone use. However, finalization is not expected until June 2016, and with the high number of drone incidents occurring in the New York airspace—accounting for nearly a third of all near-misses nationwide—New York cannot afford to wait.[\[1\]](#)

Below are five steps GGA is calling on the FAA to take in order to make the region’s airspace safer for flights and passengers:

1. **Stricter Enforcement of “No Fly Zones”:** Federal rules prohibit drones from operating higher than 400ft or within five miles of an airport, and yet drones users repeatedly violate these rules without consequence. The FAA needs to do a better job of enforcing these rules and institute harsher penalties for offenders to curb dangerous drone activity and increase safety for flights and passengers.
2. **Better Drone Technology:** All drones should be equipped with built-in software that prevents them from entering the “No Fly Zones” using geo-fencing technology, and GPS black box technology that records their flight movements and would show if they enter restricted areas.

3. **Require Training for Drone Pilots:** Drone pilots should receive the same training as regular pilots on how to safely use our airspace, giving them a full understanding of airspace and airport operations, the effects of inclement weather, and safety procedures.
4. **Air Traffic Control Monitoring:** In order to ensure the safe integration of drones into our already crowded airspace, air traffic controllers must first be able to see and monitor drones on their radar to ensure they can adequately manage the safe passage of flights.
5. **Educate Local Communities:** The FAA should educate local communities situated near airports with high levels of drone incidents on the dangers and penalties of flying drones nearby.

“When it comes to our airports, safety has to come first. And it defies reason that unmanned aircrafts are putting the lives of thousands of passengers in danger without clear consequences,” **said GGA Chairman and Founder Joe Sitt.** “It is past time for the FAA to step up and protect the nation’s most crowded airspace for the 117 million passengers who use it every year.”

In recent days, the FAA has received reports of eight separate drone sightings by aircrafts in the region. The latest occurred on Sunday, when four pilots reported seeing drones upon approach at Newark Liberty. Last week, there were three reports in as many days of drones operating near JFK.

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ABOUT GGA

Global Gateway Alliance (GGA) was established to address the major challenges facing the metropolitan region’s airports and related infrastructure that, if left unaddressed, will serve as a major impediment to the long-term growth of New York City and surrounding areas. By harnessing the expertise of leaders in business, government, academia, labor and other sectors, we seek to tackle these challenges head-on and serve as the leading advocate in an effort to improve our airports and facilitate the continued growth of the region. For more information regarding the Global Gateway Alliance, please visit www.globalgatewayalliance.org. Follow GGA on Twitter @GGA_NYNY and ‘Like’ the organization on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/UsqxGw>.

GGA’s board of directors includes: **Joseph Sitt** (Chairman), CEO, Thor Equities; **Stuart Appelbaum** (Vice President), President of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union; **Angelo Genova**, Founding Partner at Genova Burns and a former New Jersey Commissioner of the Port Authority; **Chris Giamo**, Regional President for TD Bank; **David Hopkins**, Senior Director of Aviation at the New York City Economic Development

Corporation; **Jared Kushner**, Owner of Kushner Properties and the New York Observer; **George Miranda**, Teamsters' International Vice President; **Mitchell Moss**, Henry Hart Rice Professor of Urban Policy and Planning at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University; **William Rudin**, CEO of Rudin Management Company, Inc. and Chairman of ABNY; **Joseph Spinnato**, President of the Hotel Association of New York City; **Alvin S. Trenk**, Chairman and CEO of Air Pegasus Corp; **Peter Ward**, President of the Hotel Trades Council on New York; **Tom Wright**, Executive Director of the Regional Plan Association; **Kathryn Wylde**, President of the Partnership for New York City, and **Tim Zagat**, Co-Founder and Co-Chair of Zagat Survey.

[1] According to the six month sample, from June to November 2014: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/special/national/faa-drones/>.