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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

June 22, 2012

Hon. Adrian Benepe
Commissioner
Department of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Re: Further discussion of the NYC Planning Dept.'s proposed revisions to the NYC Waterfront Revitalization Program

Dear Commissioner Benepe:

At the Full Board meeting on Wednesday, June 20, 2012, Manhattan Community Board 8 approved the following resolution by a vote of 40 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions:

After review of each issue of the revitalization plan, the Parks Committee unanimously passed a resolution urging the City to prioritize the refurbishing of the East River Esplanade. The committee also made recommendations, included in the following resolution, for each policy issue covered in the City's Waterfront Revitalization Plan.

RESOLUTION 1:

WHEREAS the East River Esplanade in the CB8M district is badly deteriorated and in need of urgent repair and refurbishing; and,

WHEREAS this deterioration has created dangerous conditions for users of this esplanade; and

WHEREAS the Dept. of City Planning has proposed revisions to the NYC Waterfront Revitalization Program; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8 Manhattan, urges the Dept. of City Planning to make refurbishing the East River Esplanade in the CB8M district a priority in its Waterfront Revitalization Plan.

RESOLUTION 2:

WHEREAS the Dept. of City Planning has submitted proposed revisions to the NYC Waterfront Revitalization Program; and

WHEREAS the City will be soliciting public feedback on the revisions it has proposed to its waterfront revitalization plan; and

WHEREAS CB8M wishes to add a number of specific recommendations involving the CB8M district to the City's proposed waterfront revitalization; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8, Manhattan, urges the Dept. of City Planning to incorporate into its proposed Waterfront Revitalization Program the attached list of recommendations that apply to the CB8M district.

The New York City Waterfront Revitalization Program
Proposed Revisions for Public Review

CB8M recommendations for the policy areas covered in the City's waterfront revitalization program:

1. Residential and Commercial Redevelopment:

Limit commercial development along the waterfront in the CB8M district to the possible creation of a suitable restaurant or café, possibly on the pier.

2. Maritime and Industrial Development:

Prevent industrialization of the East River waterfront in the densely populated CB8M district.

3. Waterways Usage:

Create ferry service, both to Randall's Island for general use of this recreational area, and to other points in the city.

4. Ecological Resources Protection:

Clean up polluted waterways to improve the fishing environment.

5. Water Quality:

Institute studies of water quality that result in increased marine life.

6. Flooding and Erosion:

Repair the crumbling sea walls in the CB8M district to prevent flooding.

7. Hazardous Material:

Remove any hazardous materials, which could be released in case of hurricanes or floods.

8. Public Access:

Quickly repair the surface of CB8M's East River Esplanade to promote safe walking and biking.

9. Visual Quality:

The East River Esplanade should be redesigned to create an inviting and enhanced parkland environment,

Sincerely,

Nicholas D. Viest
Chair

Margaret Price and Barbara Rudder
Co-Chairs, Parks Committee

cc: Honorable Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York
Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
Carolyn Maloney, 14th Congressional District Representative
Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 26th Senatorial District
Micah Kellner, Assemblyman, 65th Assembly District
Assembly Member Dan Quart, 73rd Assembly District
Jessica Lappin, NYC Council Speaker, 5th Council District
Daniel Garodnick, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District
Honorable William Castro, Manhattan Borough Commissioner