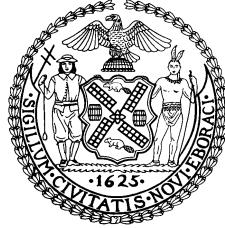


Nicholas D. Viest
Chair

Latha Thompson
District Manager



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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

July 18, 2013

Joseph F. Bruno
Commissioner
New York City Office of Emergency Management
165 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, NY, 11201

Re: New Text Amendment – Abandon Plans for Marine Transfer Station

Dear Commissioner Bruno:

At the June 13, 2013 Full Board Meeting of Community Board 8M, the following resolution was adopted by a vote of 33 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention.

Whereas Mayor Bloomberg recently issued a \$20 billion storm protection plan that includes installation of flood walls, concrete barriers, permanent levees and other measures to protect some of the areas that were hit worst by Hurricane Sandy in October;

Whereas the Yorkville neighborhood was severely flooded by the Hurricane Sandy, including a building on East 90th Street that accumulated hundreds of thousands of gallons of water that caused a fire forced the evacuation and displacement of its residents during the height of the storm;

Whereas the City continues to move forward with its plans to build an E. 91st Street Marine Transfer Station (MTS) in Yorkville, with a capacity of more than 5,000 tons of residential, institutional and commercial trash, and which is located in Flood Zone 1; despite that structures located in Flood Zone 1 are the most vulnerable in the City;

Whereas the current design of the MTS is for its pier to sit 5.59 feet beneath the elevation recommended by NYC Department of Building regulations and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's most recent flood insurance map;

Whereas the City has no plans to build flood walls or to undertake other sufficient measures to protect the proposed MTS from hurricanes and flooding;

Whereas the City's waterfront revitalization plan, Vision 2020, warns that by 2050 sea levels could be 12 to 29 inches higher than they are now;

Whereas the NYC Office of Emergency Management (OEM) provided an informational presentation at the June Full Board Meeting of Manhattan Community Board 8 (CB8) warning of the dangers of storms and flooding and to discuss precautionary measures;

Whereas OEM reports that the City now includes six hurricane evacuation zones, and posted on the OEM website that a geographic phenomenon called the "New York Bight" will magnify a hurricane's effects on the land, and that the New York Bight will guide a storm surge directly into New York City, amplifying flooding and related damage;

Whereas the City currently trucks Manhattan's trash to an incinerator in NJ, yet still plans to continue to send Manhattan's trash there after spending an additional \$200 million or more to build an E. 91st Street MTS located on the East River for putting the trash in barges and towing it up the storm-exposed East River to the same NJ incinerator via air-polluting tugboats;

Therefore be it resolved that Manhattan CB8 urges the City to heed the coastal storm and flooding warnings of the experts, including from the City's own Office of Emergency Management, and hereby abandon its plans to build a costly, unnecessary garbage marine transfer station on the East River where it will be extremely vulnerable to sudden storms and flooding;

Therefore be it further resolved that CB8M urges New York City to reconsider the entire concept of Waterfront Sanitation Transfer stations giving the city-wide flooding risk;
Therefore be it further resolved that CB8M requests that the City re-examine the entire marine-based system for handling its municipal solid waste.

Please advise this office of any action taken regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas D. Viest
Chair

Debra Teitelbaum
Chair, Environment and Sanitation Committee

Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Rose Pierre-Louis, Deputy Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Carolyn Maloney, United States Congress Member
Hon. Liz Krueger, New York State Senator
Hon. Dan Quart, New York State Assembly Member
Hon. Micah Kellner, New York State Assembly Member
Hon. Daniel Garodnick, New York City Council Member
Hon. Jessica Lappin, New York City Council Member