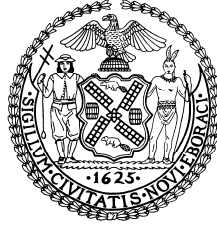


Nicholas D. Viest
Chair

Latha Thompson
District Manager



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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

July 22, 2014

Hon. Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10065

Review of Finished and Unfinished Work on the Con Edison portion of the East River Esplanade.

Dear Commissioner Silver:

At the Full Board meeting on Wednesday, July 16, 2014, Manhattan Community Board 8 approved the following resolution by a vote of 37 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 0 not voting for cause.

RESOLUTION 1

WHEREAS a section of the East River Esplanade from East 72nd to East 76th streets, previously leased by Consolidated Edison, has been returned to public use; and

WHEREAS Con Ed's required work to restore and improve this portion of the Esplanade is still unfinished, with planting beds in the middle of the walkway remaining empty and fenced-off; and
WHEREAS these sizable but inaccessible areas limit public usage and enjoyment of the Esplanade; and
WHEREAS CB8M remains committed to having plantings and seating along this portion of the Esplanade; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8M urges the Parks Dept. to review the design of the East River Esplanade from East 72nd to East 76th streets and to narrow the width of this area's two planting areas to allow more space for walking and cycling; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8-Manhattan requests that the Parks Dept. include plantings and seating in this area.

RESOLUTION 2:

WHEREAS CB8M remains committed to its desire for plantings as well as benches along the East River Esplanade in the Con Ed area from East 72nd to East 76th streets; and

WHEREAS these plantings will require an irrigation source for survival; and

WHEREAS Con Ed, which has long intruded on the Esplanade--a public park--has so far refused to provide the irrigation needed for the desired plantings; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8-Manhattan strongly requests Con Ed either to provide an irrigation source between E. 72 and E. 76 streets, or funding for a water truck in this area for three consecutive years after plantings have been installed.

Sincerely,

Nicholas D. Viest
Chair

Margaret Price and Barbara Rudder
Co-Chairs, Parks Committee

cc: Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York
Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Carolyn Maloney, 14th Congressional District Representative
Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 26th Senatorial District
Assembly Member Dan Quart, 73rd Assembly District
Ben Kallos, NYC Council Speaker, 5th Council District
Daniel Garodnick, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District
Honorable William Castro, Manhattan Borough Commissioner