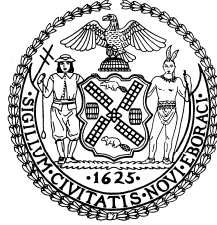


Nicholas D. Viest
Chair

Latha Thompson
District Manager



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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

October 17, 2013

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

Re: Discussion of desires/needs for improving the East River Esplanade specifically in the CB8M district and suggestions to add a master plan

Dear Commissioner White:

At the Full Board meeting on Wednesday, October 16, 2013, Manhattan Community Board 8 approved the following resolution by a vote of 31 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 1 not voting for cause.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS the East River Esplanade in the CB8M district is in a potentially dangerous state of disrepair; and

WHEREAS in the CB8M area, the Parks Dept. has been limiting its Esplanade repair work to piecemeal repairs of small dangerous and decaying areas; and

WHEREAS the Parks Dept. has still not created a comprehensive master plan for the East River Esplanade that would address the full range of renovation and re-design needs for the Esplanade in CB8M; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that CB8M urges the Parks Dept. develop a master plan for the East River Esplanade that would consider the suggestions made by the public at the September 26, 2013 CB8M Parks Committee meeting. These suggestions include:

- Installing an irrigation system throughout the Esplanade to maintain area plantings;
- Repairing existing faulty lighting and increasing area illumination as much as possible;
- Expanding the width of the Esplanade to enable it to better serve pedestrians, bicyclists, etc. One specific suggestion entails adding an upper level to the Esplanade, along all or a portion of it, similar in height John Finlay Walk, to separate pedestrian from bicycle use;

- Using pilings in the East River as a foundation for expanding the Esplanade out over that portion of the East River;
- Redesigning the 91st St. pier to accommodate cultural uses and popular activities, such as fishing;
- Converting the Marine Transfer Station site to parkland if it isn't used as a MTS;
- Addressing the noise and air pollution caused by the Esplanade's proximity to the FDR drive;
- Creating initiatives to prevent destructive flooding caused by climate change and rising seas;
- Creating an attractive and unified design scheme that would enhance the Esplanade's stature as a destination park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CB8M encourages the City to pursue public-private partnerships to help finance the urgently needed repair and re-design of the East River Esplanade in the CB8M district.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CB8M urges the City to pursue federal and state funding for repair and redesign of the East River Esplanade in the CB8M district.

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