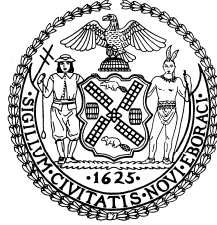


Nicholas D. Viest  
Chair

Latha Thompson  
District Manager



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## The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

November 14, 2013

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

### **Re: Con Edison East River Esplanade Improvements**

Dear Commissioner White:

At the Land Use meeting on Wednesday, November 13, 2013, Manhattan Community Board 8 approved the following resolution by a vote of 38 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention and 0 not voting for cause.

### **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS** a section of the East River Esplanade from East 72<sup>nd</sup> to East 78th streets previously controlled by Consolidated Edison is being returned to public use and is now being reconstructed; and

**WHEREAS** the Parks Department's redesign for this area includes two paths for walking and biking with a wide, planted area separating the two paths; and

**WHEREAS** the Parks Dept. did not seek public input on the use of the Esplanade in the Community Board 8 district before redesigning this portion of the Esplanade; and

**WHEREAS**, produced independently, the new design does not conform to other sections of the Esplanade; and

**WHEREAS** the new design's wide planted area limits the amount of space available for jogging, walking and bicycling, which are the popular uses of the Esplanade; and

**WHEREAS** the project does not include irrigation needed for the intended plantings in the area; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CB8M asks the Parks Dept. to halt its current reconstruction of the Esplanade between East 72<sup>nd</sup> St and East 78<sup>th</sup> St., until the City elicits public input on the use of the Esplanade on the Upper East Side of Manhattan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, at minimum, CB8M urges the Parks Dept. both to alter its current design for the reconstruction of the East 72<sup>nd</sup>-East 78<sup>th</sup> streets area of the Esplanade to narrow the width of the planted area and to broaden the walk-way to provide a wider, safer space for pedestrians, joggers and cyclists and to provide needed irrigation for the plantings of that section; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that CB8M reiterates its call for a master plan for the design of the full length of the East River Esplanade and stresses the need for public input on the design of such a master plan.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that CM8M requests that the Parks Dept. ensure that the portion of the Esplanade (capital E) now being renovated by Con Edison be reopened for public use as soon as Con Edison completes ITS construction and returns the area to City control.

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, 14<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Representative  
Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 26<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District  
Micah Kellner, Assemblyman, 65<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Assembly Member Dan Quart, 73<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District  
Jessica Lappin, NYC Council Speaker, 5<sup>th</sup> Council District  
Daniel Garodnick, NYC Council Member, 4<sup>th</sup> Council District  
Honorable William Castro, Manhattan Borough Commissioner