

Russell Squire  
Chair

Will Brightbill  
District Manager



**The City of New York  
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

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November 18, 2021

Gabrielle Fialkoff, Commissioner  
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation  
830 Fifth Ave  
New York, NY, 10065

**RE: Improvements to the East River Esplanade from E.72 – E. 78 Streets**

Dear Commissioner Fialkoff,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on November 17, 2021, the board **APPROVED** the following resolution by a vote of 47 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention and 0 not voting for cause:

**WHEREAS** Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) has committed to improving the East River Esplanade from 72<sup>nd</sup> to 78<sup>th</sup> Streets, and

**WHEREAS** the proposed design was consistent with the notable and distinct features of the rest of the Esplanade, including the hexagonal pavers, bow railing, native, durable plantings and World's Fair benches, and

**WHEREAS** both HSS and the Parks Department have agreed to include additional garbage receptacles in their final design, and

**WHEREAS** Community Board 8 Manhattan recognizes the importance of connectivity along the Esplanade and urges HSS to do everything possible to conduct these beatification efforts as expeditiously as possible in order to return access to the public, and

**WHEREAS** Community Board 8 Manhattan recognizes the critical role our parks and open spaces play in the City's overall resiliency and therefore urges HSS to utilize the best practices to increase resiliency along the Esplanade, and

**WHEREAS** this approval is granted on the stipulation that HSS works with the Parks Department to permanently repair the two existing sinkholes at 71<sup>st</sup> Street, and

**WHEREAS** this approval is granted on the stipulation that HSS come back to Community Board 8 Manhattan with a plan for continued maintenance for the section between 72<sup>nd</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup> street, and

**WHEREAS** this approval is granted on the stipulation that HSS provides periodic updates on the entire project, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** Community Board 8 Manhattan approves the proposed design of the Esplanade beautification efforts as presented by Hospital for Special Surgery.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

*Russell Squire*

Russell Squire  
Chair

*Tricia Shimamura and Barry Schneider*

Tricia Shimamura and Barry Schneider  
Co-Chairs, Parks and Waterfront Committee

cc: Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York  
Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12th Congressional District Representative  
Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District  
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District  
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District  
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District  
Honorable Robert J. Rodriguez, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District  
Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District  
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District