



Eleazar Bueno, Chairperson
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Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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June 2, 2021

Hon. Marisa Lago, Director
New York City Department of City Planning
120 Broadway
31st Floor
New York, NY 10271

Re: SUPPORTING THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY'S "RESTORE THE GEORGE"
STREET MAP CHANGE ULURP APPLICATION

Dear Director Lago:

At the General Meeting Tuesday, May 25, 2021 Community Board #12, Manhattan passed a resolution with a vote of 33 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention ratifying the Executive Committee resolution passed on Monday, May 17, 2021, supporting the ULURP Application No.: 180024MMM filed by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which proposes certain street map changes and disposition of property between the Port Authority and the City of New York.

Whereas: The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (the "Port Authority") (the "Applicant") submitted an application ("Application No.: 180024MMM" or the "Application") to the Department of City Planning ("DCP") seeking certain street map changes and the disposition of property between the Port Authority and the City of New York (the "Map Changes") under the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure ("ULURP"). The Application is part of the Port Authority's overall "Restore the George Program" which includes 11 projects to restore the 85-year-old bridge including the construction of new pedestrian and bicycle ramps and providing access to the bridge's sidewalks compliant with the American with Disabilities Act ("ADA"). The Application was certified as complete by DCP on March 15, 2021. Community Board 12-Manhattan ("CB12M") has a 60-day period to review and comment on the Application which commenced on March 24, 2021 and ends May 24, 2021; and

Whereas: The Map Changes would update the City Map and formalize the street network resulting from the construction of the lower level of the George Washington Bridge in the 1950s, discontinue and close certain mapped but unbuilt or "paper" streets (the "Unbuilt Streets"), align the City Map with the existing use of space, establish a turnaround at the Haven Avenue dead-end at the request of the New York City Department of Transportation ("NYCDOT"), and update miscellaneous topographic features and legal grades as directed by the Manhattan Borough President's Office; and

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Whereas: The Unbuilt Streets proposed for closure and de-mapping are bounded by Riverside Drive and Fort Washington Avenue and West 177th and 179th Streets; Haven Avenue and Cabrini Boulevard and West 179th and 180th Streets, Haven Avenue, Riverside Drive and Cabrini Boulevard and West 177th and 178th Streets; and Haven Avenue and Cabrini Boulevard and West 180th and 181st Streets (collectively Block 2177 / Lots 51, 255, 300, 168, 170, 174 and 175). Title to the existing turnaround located at Haven Avenue just north of West 180th Street (Block 2177 / Lot 168) would also be transferred at no cost from the Port Authority to the City of New York (the "City"); and

Whereas: Although the Board of Estimate approved the Port Authority's 1957 plan to expand the George Washington Bridge approaches and approved other actions required to implement the plan; the Port Authority constructed the ramps and has maintained the subject area since 1957; and the City and Port Authority have operated since 1962 as if the Port Authority owns all of the land on which the ramps are built, neither the City nor the Port Authority have located records of any formal property transfer; and

Whereas: The Application for Map Changes is a procedural formality to update the City Map to allow for the subsequent transfer of the Unbuilt Streets from the City to the Port Authority to complete a process that was left unfinished from the 1950s/1960s and to cede ownership of the Haven Avenue turnaround from the Port Authority to the City; and

Whereas: Representatives of DCP and the Port Authority presented the Application to CB12-M's Land Use Committee at its regularly scheduled May 5, 2021 Committee Meeting. The Chair of CB12-M's Traffic and Transportation Committee attended the meeting. No objections or concerns were raised in connection with the Application; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: Community Board 12-Manhattan supports ULURP Application No.: 180024MMM filed by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which proposes certain street map changes and disposition of property between the Port Authority and the City of New York.

Sincerely,



Eleazar Bueno
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator
Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President

Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member