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April 3, 2023

Noreen Doyle
President & CEO
Hudson River Park Trust
353 West Street, Pier 40, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10014

Dear Ms. Doyle:

At its Full Board meeting on March 23, 2023, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

Resolution in response to letter from the Hudson River Park Advisory Council calling for a task force to address resiliency, infrastructure and environmental-related challenges facing the future of the west side waterfront.

Whereas, on February 14th, 2023, the Hudson River Park Advisory Council wrote a letter to Mayor Eric Adams and Governor Kathy Hochul, calling for the establishment of a Task Force to envision the future of Manhattan's west side, which would span multiple areas of focus including resiliency, environmental protection and transportation; and

Whereas, since the initial Task Force which brought about the current incarnation of Hudson River Park in the late 1980s/1990s, there have been few, if any, holistic and comprehensive studies which have sought to bring together the overlapping grid of agencies, community groups, organizations and other relevant west side stakeholders, despite a range of environmental, transportation and resiliency-related issues and topics which are becoming increasingly salient; and

Whereas, the US Army Corps NY/NJ Harbors and Tributaries Study ("HATS") Study, which was begun after Hurricane Sandy and is currently in a public comment period for its Tentatively Selected Plan ("TSP"), does not take a holistic view on the future of the west side, instead being focused solely on planning for hard infrastructure to mitigate the risk of flooding and property destruction from future storm surges and coastal inundation; and

Whereas, while resiliency measures to mitigate damage from future storms are clearly an important consideration for the west side, there is significant community opposition to the approach and design being proposed by the HATS TSP, which would include a 12' tall concrete wall running along much of the length of Hudson River Park; and

Whereas, such a design would have a severe and negative impact on the relationship between the waterfront and the surrounding neighborhoods, effectively cutting off access and impeding line-of-sight to the water; and

Whereas, as has been raised in many prior Community Board 2 meetings surrounding this topic, an extremely broad and detailed set of infrastructure conditions must be reviewed before initiating any kind of infrastructure project on the west side, including but not limited to sewage / drainage systems, electrical lines / systems, gas lines, soil / landfill type, and others, none of which were considered as part of the HATS study; and

Whereas, additional items that were not considered in the HATS study were raised in Community Board 2's public comment on the study, including traffic flow and emergency access on Route 9A, the proposed extension of the west side bike lane, drainage issues and the potential impact of green infrastructure, and the narrow width of Hudson River Park at many points, among other things; and

Whereas, a Task Force could bring together key relevant stakeholders, including elected officials, agency representatives, subject-matter experts, and community members with deep knowledge and experience of their neighborhoods, to address and plan for the range of issues facing the west side in a holistic fashion; and

Whereas, any such Task Force should be structured to be truly community-led, including a major role for local community boards, as only stakeholders rooted locally possess the knowledge and perspective needed to appreciate the full impact of the project (including secondary effects/consequences), and should strive to create an outcome that generates real buy-in from community members; and

Whereas, as such, any Task Force created should be inclusive and transparent, with a range of public input and engagement opportunities, and should be creative in the scope and design of such activities in order to involve as many people as possible from all corners of the community; and

Whereas, such a Task Force should also be dynamic, allowing for the ability to evolve and bring in additional input and expertise as it moves forward; and

Whereas, CB2 recognizes that the creation and implementation of such task force would require significant further exploration and discussion, and CB2 would look, along with other community boards on the west side, to be involved throughout all such steps should a Task Force process be initiated; now

Therefore Be It Resolved that CB2 Manhattan supports in concept the creation of a Task Force to address the range of issues and topics which face the future of the west side.

Therefore Be It Further Resolved that CB2 Manhattan believes that it is critical that any such Task Force include a leading role for CB2 and other community boards along the west side, be transparently

run with significant and creative opportunities for public engagement, and be dynamic to allow for efficiency and adaptability as the Task Force moves forward.

Vote: Unanimous, 44 Board Members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution. Sincerely,



Jeannine Kiely, Chair
Community Board 2, Manhattan



William Benesh, Chair
Quality of Life Committee
Community Board 2, Manhattan

JK/em

c: Hon. Dan Goldman, Congressman
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NYS Senator
Hon. Deborah Glick, Assembly Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Man. Borough President
Hon. Erik Bottcher, City Council Member