



Burt Lazarin
Chair
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District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR
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July 30, 2019

James Patchett
President and CEO
New York Economic Development Corporation
10 William Street
New York, NY 10038

Re: West Side Ferry Service

Dear Mr. Patchett,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (“MCB4”) at its July 24th Full Board meeting, by a vote of 35 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining and 0 present but not eligible to vote, wishes to thank the Economic Development Corporation (“EDC”) for its presentation to MCB4’s Waterfront, Parks and Environment Committee (the “Committee”) on June 13, 2019, and adopts the recommendations made herein.

As was stated at the June 13th meeting, MCB4 is a firm believer that ferry service should be expanded city-wide, but particularly on the West Side of Manhattan. That being said, MCB4 receives no benefit from the proposal offered by EDC to institute ferry service between Staten Island and Pier 79, with a sole interim stop located at Battery Park City. The proposed ferry service will be a boon to Staten Island commuters who work in midtown Manhattan. But this is essentially a one-way route, to Manhattan in the morning and back to Staten Island in the evening, as the number of West Side residents that commute TO Staten Island and return back to Manhattan is believed to be negligible. All MCB4 gets out of the proposed ferry route is more traffic, more garbage and the influx of more people commuting through our neighborhood.

However, as proposed by the Committee, there is a way that MCB4 could become a huge supporter of the proposed new route. The majority of the ferry service provided by the City of New York crosses the East River. West Side residents have no easy connection to the numerous ferry routes on the East Side. By adding a stop at the Wall Street ferry terminal to the proposed route, West Siders would have an easy connection to the rest of the ferry system. MCB4 believes this would lead to a huge increase in ferry ridership among West Side residents, and would solve the problem of ferries running virtually empty in one direction.

MCB4 recommends that the Wall Street stop be added between the Staten Island stop and the Battery Park City stop in each direction. This will allow West Siders to have an easy connection to the Wall Street ferry terminal and the rest of the City's ferry routes.

Thus, the proposed new route would be as follows:

St. George - Wall Street - Battery Park City - Pier 79 - Battery Park City - Wall Street - St. George

Adding the second Battery Park City stop will have the added bonus of providing another means of commuting to lower Manhattan for West Siders.

MCB4 urges you to adopt this revision to the proposed ferry route. With this revision, MCB4 will support the proposal. However, if the new stops are not added, MCB4 believes it receives all of the negatives and no positive benefit from the new route. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our proposed route with you further.

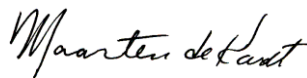
Sincerely,



Burt Lazarin
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Lowell Kern
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks & Environment
Committee



Maarten de Kadt
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks & Environment
Committee

Cc: Hon. Corey Johnson, New York City Council Speaker