

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

424 West 33rd Street, Suite 580, New York, NY 10001
tel: 212-736-4536
www.mcb4.nyc

JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

November 22, 2023

Andrew Kimball
President & CEO
NYC Economic Development Corporation
1 Liberty Street
New York, NY 10006

Re: Manhattan Cruise Terminal - Shore Power

Dear President Kimball,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) would like to thank the NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC) for their presentation on the Manhattan Cruise Terminal (MCT) at the October Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee meeting.

At its November 1st Full Board meeting, MCB4, by a vote of 36 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions and 1 present but not eligible, approved the following comments.

MCB4 has long been on record for the City to recognize the urgent need to eliminate the hazardous emissions spewing from the cruise ships docket at Pier 90. The air in our district continually registers as some of the worst in New York City due in no small part to the ships' giant carbon footprint left on our shores with each visit.

We are encouraged the EDC has negotiated new usage agreements with the industry's top cruise liner companies to hopefully address both sustainability and community investment.¹

¹ <https://edc.nyc/press-release/nycedc-announces-new-agreements-carnival-norwegian-msc-cruises>

SHORE POWER

MCB4 applauds the EDC for addressing the massive amount of toxic cruise ship emissions by committing to electric shore power. As mentioned in the presentation, “Cruise lines are committed to connecting.” With 60% of fleets already fitted to run on fully electric power, the City has been woefully behind on providing the necessary connections allowing the ships to operate in an environmentally-friendly manner.

Early next year, Ports of America, the operator of the MCT, is scheduled to begin upgrades on one of the three Pier 90 service aprons with an \$80 million renovation including comprehensive shore power infrastructure. With these plans, we expect the EDC to provide connection much earlier than the proposed 2028 date. The need to speed up the timeline cannot be stressed enough. We look forward to seeing the upcoming results of the Jacobs study along with Con Ed’s assessment on getting Pier 90 fully electric, uninterrupted. MCB4 also requests the latest timeline and plans for the Ports of America construction.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

The Board is excited to hear part of this new agreement includes a Community Priority Fund where \$1 per cruise ship passenger will be dedicated to bettering the immediate Hell’s Kitchen community.

It is anticipated 700,000 passengers will come through the MCT this upcoming year and with the cruise industry the fastest growing in tourism, it is expected to exceed pre-COVID record highs in passenger numbers and revenues in upcoming years.² This means the Hell’s Kitchen neighborhood is expected to receive approximately \$700,000 a year to start. This fund will be enacted at the end of this year. Any shortfall in passenger numbers is agreed to be supplemented. While the EDC controls this account and will work with the local City Councilmember to identify proper use of these funds, MCB4 insists the community have a weighted say identifying deserving projects in the immediate neighborhood. This will begin to help address the damage these cruise ships have had on our immediate community.

MCB4 would also like to emphasize attention to hiring local. Thank you for including the development for educational partnerships in the new agreement. We hope the EDC, Ports of America and the Cruise Ship companies work with hyperlocal programs, like the West Side Work Coalition, connecting local talent with employment opportunities.³

As we move forward, MCB4 would also like to comment on the workable transportation improvement plans to address trucks, buses, service vehicle- and passenger vehicle-traffic around the MCT. We see this as an excellent opportunity to upgrade the transportation

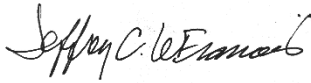
² https://cruising.org/-/media/clia-media/research/2023/2023-clia-state-of-the-cruise-industry-report_low-res.ashx

³ <https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb4/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2023/11/15-ACES-Letter-to-Mayors-office-and-City-Council-in-support-of-Hudson-Guild-and-West-Side-Work-Coalition.pdf>

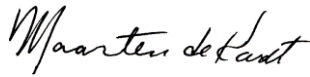
infrastructure around Pier 90 and fix long-standing problems including the embarking and disembarking of passengers.

MCB4 sees this new agreement as a positive step to achieving a cleaner, more livable west side and are excited to partner with the EDC moving forward on this project.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Maarten deKadt
Co-chair
Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee



Leslie Boghosian Murphy
Co-chair
Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee

CC: Hon. Erik Bottcher, NYC Council
Noreen Doyle, President & CEO, Hudson River Park Trust
MOCEJ
Rob Kusiciel, CCO, Ports America
Hudson Guild (West Side Work Coalition)