



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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COREY JOHNSON
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

July 20, 2011

Ms. Diana L. Taylor
Chair, Hudson River Park Trust
353 West Street (at W. Houston)
Pier 40, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10014

Dear Ms. Taylor:

Manhattan Community Board 4 has a long history of involvement in the creation and development of Hudson River Park and is excited that, after all these years, the park is at the 80% completion point with the end in sight. We were among the early supporters of the Hudson River Park Act that created the park, and we have long supported and appreciated the efforts of the Friends of Hudson River Park in advocating for the city and state funds to build the park. We are writing now to express our support for the Collaboration Agreement that has been approved by the board of the Friends and is awaiting approval by the board of the Trust, which will formalize the Friend's role as the chief private fundraising organization for the Park.

It is clear to us that, as the park moves toward completion, the limited funding mechanisms permitted by the Hudson River Park Act – namely rents collected from certain commercial nodes such as Chelsea Piers, Pier 40, Pier 57, Piers 81/83 and others, along with user and event fees – is insufficient to maintain the Park in any acceptable manner. Much of the Park is on piers supported by piles over the river – a difficult environment in which to exist. Further the vision for this Park has always been of the highest quality and standards of beauty and excellence – a vision that has been achieved as the Park has developed, but one that we know will be expensive to maintain for future generations.

We are aware that additional funding mechanisms are being explored, including a proposed Park Improvement District. But the outcome of that effort, or others, is by no means certain. We believe the proposed Collaboration Agreement will provide a means for the Friends of Hudson River Park to become a major funding source for the park immediately, continuing its role advocating for public funding, but now also seeking private funds from park users and other interested parties. Friends is well poised to begin that new role quickly and we have confidence that this new agreement will begin to bear fruit in the near future.

Therefore, Manhattan Community Board No 4 is pleased to support this agreement and urges the Trust Board to approve it.¹

Sincerely,

[signed 07/20/2011]

Corey Johnson

Chair

cc: Trust Board
Madelyn Wils (HRPT)
A.J. Pietratone (FoHRP)
City Council Speaker Christine Quinn
State Senator Thomas Duane
NYS Assemblyman Richard Gottfried
NYS Assemblymember Liz Rosenthal
Representative Jerrold Nadler
Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer

Note: This recommendation for support was unanimously approved by the Waterfront and Parks Committee and needs to be ratified by the Full Board on July 27, 2011

¹ John Doswell, being a member of the Board of the Friends and its Founding Chair, has recused himself from either chairing any discussion or voting on this matter, as required by law.