

August 6, 2002

Andrew Alpert
President
Economic Development Corporation
110 William Street
New York, NY 10038

Re: Heliport for Westside

Dear Mr. Alpert:

The members of Manhattan Community Board No. 4 and its Waterfront and Parks Committee understand that the corporation is currently financing a study of a west side heliport, particularly for two locations within the Hudson River Park, and we have several points we hope you will take into consideration as you proceed. We note that the board, and the community it represents, has long opposed helicopter activity on its waterfront, due to the noise and potential danger. With a world-class park developing at the two proposed sites, our opposition is even stronger.

First, we request that the study evaluate the possibility of no heliport for the west side, as well as possible location should it be determined that the city would benefit from a third heliport.

We recall the Economic Development Corporation's (EDC) own New York City Heliport and Helicopter Master Plan, published in April 1999. There your consultants predicted that corporate/charter/courier activity will have "little or no growth at all" between now and 2017, and the report further stated that this segment's "share of total Manhattan helicopter activity will decline from 46 percent in 1996 to 25 percent by 2017."

Since a heliport on the west side in midtown would be within the Hudson River Park, and therefore restricted to corporate activity only, we question whether this heliport will be useful.

The 1999 report also concluded that if there were no air tour activity, it would be feasible to accommodate the activity at two segments. Since the west side facility would not accommodate air tours, this location does not serve the city's need.

Second, as the consultants evaluate the two sites, West 30th Street and Pier 76, we must state our complete opposition to the Pier 76 option. Siting a heliport at this location would ruin all efforts at developing half the pier as public space. For that reason we conclude that this site would be

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unacceptable to the community, and should be also unacceptable to the city and state as it develops the Hudson River Park.

Thank you for your consideration of this. We would appreciate notification of the completion of the report, as well as access to it.

Sincerely,



Simone Sindin
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

John Doswell
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

Pam Frederick
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Daniel Doctoroff, Deputy Mayor
Hon. Jerrold Nadler, United States Representative
Hon. Eric Schneiderman, State Senator
Hon. Scott Stringer, State Assemblymember
Hon. Christine Quinn, City Councilmember
Hudson River Park Trust
Members of Economic Development Corporation's Heliport Committee