



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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J. LEE COMPTON
Chair

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

December 11, 2006

Anthony R. Coscia
Chairman
The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
225 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10003

Re: Port Authority Bus Terminal development and Section 14.09 Review

Dear Chairman Coscia:

We write regarding plans currently under discussion by the Port Authority to authorize construction of a tower above the north wing of the Port Authority Bus Terminal.

We wish to ensure that if such a project is undertaken, the Port Authority abides by its obligations under Section 14.09 of the New York Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law with respect to a review of the potential negative impacts of such a development upon historic resources and to attempt to mitigate such impacts if possible. The site is directly east of the McGraw Hill Building, a New York City landmark, which is also listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places as a landmark. As such, any development on the north wing has the potential to significantly block the public view of this building, which would constitute an impact upon historic resources. The building was originally conceived of and built as an isolated tower among the low buildings around it. Especially in light of the fact that a recent development directly to the west of the McGraw Hill Building almost entirely obscures the view of it from the west and diminishes its effect as a solitary tower, we firmly believe that any development by the Port Authority that might further block the view of the tower and severely lessen its visual effect must be reviewed under the provisions of the law.

We also remind the Port Authority that if any federal funds are to be used for this project, then it must go through a Section 106 review under the National Historic Preservation Act. Should that be the case, we request consulting party status for Community Board #4. Should the project go through a Section 14.09 review, Community Board #4 asks to be afforded the opportunity to provide comment upon the plan, even if we cannot be granted official consulting party status.

We look forward to being kept informed of the Port Authority's plans in this regard.

Sincerely,

Edward Kirkland
Chair
Landmarks Task Force

J. Lee Compton
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4

Cc: Kenneth J. Ringler, Jr., Executive Director, Port Authority
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Local electeds
Manhattan Plaza Tenants Organization
Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Association