



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND**  
Chair

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

April 14, 2008

Hon David Paterson  
Governor New York State  
The Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12247

**Re: Funding for Hudson River Park**

Dear Governor Paterson:

On behalf on Manhattan Community Board 4, representing the community district that includes about 50% of the emerging Hudson River Park, we write, first to congratulate you on becoming the 55<sup>th</sup> governor of New York State, and second, to ask that you continue to support this emerging and important park as it moves toward completion.

After years of discussions and studies by New York City and State, Hudson River Park was finally formally declared by the Hudson River Park Act, sponsored by your former colleagues Senator Leichter and Assembly Member Gottfried, and signed into law by Governor Pataki in 1998. The Act specifically called for the City and State to jointly provide the capitol funding for this park, and such funding has been forthcoming annually ever since.

However, recently, Governor Spitzer, after allocating only \$5 million in the previous fiscal year, had stated that this year's allocation of \$20 million was contingent on the sale of certain properties held by the Jacob Javits Convention Center. We now understand that this condition has been severed, and that there is now a line item in the Assembly Budget for this allocation. However, we feel compelled to stress how important this allocation, which will be matched by New York City funds, is to the park at this stage of progress.

As you know, construction costs are rising – and as you may know, NYC funding is contingent on matching NYS funding. Currently two major segments of the park under construction now are critically dependant on continued funding: the Chelsea segment, which falls within Community District 4, and the Tribeca segment further south. Without timely budget allocations, construction at these nodes will come to a halt, and if delayed, construction costs to complete these nodes will rise further.

It would be unacceptable, after many years of progress, and with the light at the end of the tunnel now visible, for this to be allowed to happen. We hope that you will take the time as soon as possible to visit this park, including the completed segments, to experience firsthand some of the miracles that have occurred as a result of the Hudson River Park Act already, as well as segments under development, to better understand the need to continue progress in a timely manner.

And we ask that you bring to bear your influence as Governor to ensure that the vision of Hudson River Park is fully realized, which not only provides open space, recreation and enjoyment to thousands of New Yorkers and visitors, but provides an important economic stimulus to the west side of Manhattan from the Battery to 59<sup>th</sup> Street.

Sincerely,



Jean-Daniel Noland, Chair Manhattan Community Board 4



Capt. John Doswell, Co-Chair  
Waterfronts & Parks Committee



John D. Lamb, Co-Chair  
Waterfront & Parks Committee

Cc: Mayor Bloomberg  
Diana Taylor, Chair Hudson River Park Trust  
Connie Fishman, President/CEO HRPT  
Local city & state elected officials:  
Quinn, Gottfried, Glick, Rosenthal, Duane, Stringer, Nadler  
Friends of Hudson River Park  
Chairs Manhattan Community Boards 1 and 2