



Hudson River Park Trust

October 24, 2017

Hon. Marisa Lago
Chair
New York City Planning Commission
120 Broadway, 31st Floor
New York, NY 10271

Re.: 601 West 29th Street (ULURP No.: 180127 ZMM, N 180128 ZRM, 180129 ZSM)

Dear Chair Lago:

On behalf of the Hudson River Park Trust (the "Trust"), I wish to extend my appreciation for the effort that you and the staff at the New York City Department of City Planning ("DCP") are making to consider the proposed action related to the redevelopment of the property located at 601 W. 29th Street (Block 675, Lots 12, 29 and 36), inclusive of the contemplated zoning text amendments and special permits related to the Special Hudson River Park District (the "Special District") and the Trust's ability to transfer floor area.

Pursuant to the Hudson River Park Act, Chapter 592 of the Laws of 1998 of the State of New York, as amended (the "Act"), the Trust is responsible for the planning, design, development, construction, operation and maintenance of the Hudson River Park and the improvements therein (collectively, the "Park"), which is located along West Street in the Borough of Manhattan, City and State of New York, and includes the property known as "Chelsea Piers" generally situated between West 17th Street to West 22nd Street at Twelfth Avenue in the Borough of Manhattan, City and State of New York. The Trust has identified a portion of Chelsea Piers, specifically Piers 59, 60 and 61 and their associated headhouses, which are generally located on portions of Manhattan tax Block 662, Lots 11, 16 and 19, as the "Granting Site" pursuant to the Special District.

Pursuant to subsection 1(j) of Section 7 of the Act, the Trust is authorized:

"to transfer by sale any unused development rights as may be available for transfer to properties located up to one block east of the boundaries of the [P]ark along the west side of Manhattan, if and to the extent designated and permitted under local zoning ordinances ...".

Section 89-21 of Article VIII, Chapter 9 of the Zoning Resolution of the City of New York (the “Zoning Resolution”) requires that all Special Permit applications include, inter alia:

“a statement from the [Trust] identifying improvements to be made to [the Park], and indicating that payment of the #required funds# necessary to effectuate the transfer of #floor area# pursuant to this Section, in combination with any other available funding, would be sufficient, according to the Trust’s estimate, to complete such identified improvements.”

It is our understanding that DD West 29th Street, LLC (the “Developer”), has submitted an application to DCP for a Special Permit to permit the transfer of “floor area” (as defined in the Zoning Resolution) from Piers 59, 60 and 61 and their associated headhouses to 601 W. 29th Street (Block 675, Lots 12, 29 and 36) (the “Transfer”). Specifically, the Developer seeks to purchase 123,437.5 square feet of air rights from the Granting Site.

In anticipation of Developer’s application, the Trust has negotiated a draft Purchase and Sale Agreement (the “PSA”) with the Developer for the Transfer. Pursuant to such PSA, DD West 29th Street, LLC would pay the Trust \$37,000,000 (Thirty Seven Million Dollars) (the “Transfer Proceeds”).

The Transfer would require a “significant action” process and subsequent approvals by the Board of Directors of the Trust pursuant to the Act, which approvals would be contingent upon and subject to approvals of zoning text amendments and special permits related to the Special District, and certain other actions by the New York City Planning Commission (the “Commission”) including zoning map amendments, text amendments, special permits and other related actions in connection with Developer’s proposed redevelopment of 601 W. 29th Street (Block 675, Lots 12, 29 and 36).

Accordingly, this letter is submitted to the Commission in satisfaction of the requirement under Section 89-21 of the Zoning Resolution that the Trust identify improvements to be made to the Park, and confirm the sufficiency of funding to complete such identified improvements.

The Trust plans to allocate eighty percent (80%) of the Transfer Proceeds for park construction within the boundaries of Community Board 4, and has begun a consultation process with Community Board 4 to identify and prioritize potential projects. The potential construction projects within Community Board 4 include:

1. Construction of a new pile-supported over-water pedestrian platform and related upland Park between West 58th and West 59th Streets. Transfer Proceeds could be used for the design and construction of this platform and related upland park, including associated utilities, pavement and railings, as well as the design and construction of the bikeway connection from West 55th St. to Riverside Park South. The project will improve circulation and safety in the area.

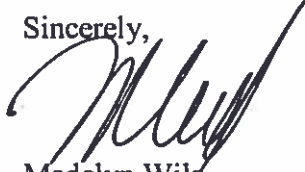
2. Completion of Pier 97 as a public recreation pier. The Trust has previously constructed the piles and structural deck of the pier; however, the park finishes have not yet been designed or implemented. Transfer Proceeds could be applied to the design and/or construction of the pier landscape, utilities and finishes.
3. Construction of an upland park in the area adjacent to Pier 97 measuring approximately 25,954 square feet. Transfer Proceeds could be used for design and/or construction of bulkhead repairs, landscaping and utilities, and a small building to serve as a utility hub for park uses in this zone.
4. Construction of permanent esplanade and improved vehicular circulation in the upland area between the northern edge of Pier 79 and Pier 84. Transfer Proceeds could be used for the design and/or construction of landscape, utilities, railings and park finishes.
5. Construction of new park in the upland area between West 29th Street and the southern edge of Pier 76. Transfer Proceeds could be used for the design and/or construction new esplanade and planted areas in all or a portion of this section.
6. Infrastructure restoration of the historic Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Float Transfer Bridge at Pier 66a. Transfer Proceeds could be used could be used for design and/or restoration services.
7. Upgrades to Chelsea Waterside Park. Transfer Proceeds could be used for upgrades to existing and planned landscaping, and may include features such as a new comfort station and/or an enlarged dog run.

The Trust commits to work with Community Board 4 over the next several months to confirm its priorities from those listed above, and to secure cost estimates for the preferred projects. Prior to the required public hearing that will be held during the ULURP process, the Trust will provide the Commission with an updated statement that identifies which specific projects could be fully funded with a combination of Transfer Proceeds and other funding sources that may be available to the Trust, according to the Trust's cost estimates.

Furthermore, the Trust intends to dedicate the remaining twenty percent (20%) of the Transfer Proceeds to the future capital maintenance needs of park improvements located solely within Community Board 4. This portion of the Transfer Proceeds shall be set aside and restricted to fund capital maintenance and/or reconstruction of park improvements such as: piles, pier decks and floating docks, bulkheads, playgrounds, paved surfaces, landscaping, lighting, utilities, roofs and other structural components of park buildings (as opposed to park/commercial buildings as defined in the Act), and other capitably eligible work.

This statement to the City Planning Commission is provided to satisfy the requirement under Section 89-21 of the Zoning Resolution with respect to the application of funds received by the Trust from the Transfer. I wish to thank DCP and the Commission for the consideration given to the needs of the Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Madelyn Wils', written in a cursive style.

Madelyn Wils
President & CEO