



The Honorable Kathy C. Hochul
Governor of New York State
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

The Honorable Eric L. Adams
Mayor of New York City
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Subject: Resolution Regarding Hudson River Park Waterfront Improvements

Dear Dear Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams:

The Hudson River Park Advisory Council passed the following resolution addressing the proposed Battery Park City Authority waterfront improvements for Hudson River Park. We urge you to consider the concerns and issues raised in it.

Whereas, implementing permanent 9-foot-plus wall structures will obstruct views of the waterfront and result in hazardous conditions for cyclists and pedestrians in the park;

Whereas, no environmental impact studies were presented to assess the consequences of floodwaters hitting the proposed wall and causing waves to rebound into the park;

Whereas, no environmental impact studies were presented to evaluate the potential effects of the proposed wall on neighboring communities, including areas north of No Moore Street;

Whereas, the strategy of constructing an unsightly wall establishes a precedent that Community Boards 1, 2, and 4 have previously rejected in past resolutions;

In light of the above concerns, we humbly request that you, as our elected representatives, take the necessary steps to ensure that the proposed Hudson River Park waterfront improvements undergo thorough environmental impact studies. We urge you to consider alternative solutions that prioritize the safety of our community

members, preserve the natural beauty of the waterfront, and take into account the needs and concerns of the neighboring areas.

We kindly ask for your support in addressing these matters and advocate for an inclusive and transparent decision-making process that involves input from the community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your commitment to protecting the interests of our community and preserving the beauty and safety of our beloved Hudson River Park.

Sincerely,

Respectfully from the Chair, 1st Vice Chair, and 2nd Vice Chair of the Hudson River Park Advisory Council,



Daniel Miller, CB2
Chair



Tammy Meltzer, CB1
First Vice Chair



Jeffrey LeFrancois, CB4
Second Vice Chair

Cc: State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal
State Senator Brian Kavanaugh
Assemblymember Charles Fall
Assemblymember Deborah Glick
Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal
Assemblymember Tony Simone
Councilmember Erik Bottcher
Councilmember Gale Brewer
Councilmember Christopher Marte
Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine
Battery Park City Authority



September 2023

Resolution in response to Battery Park City Authority's Resiliency Presentation.

The Advisory Council of Hudson River Park invited the Battery Park City Authority to provide an update on its efforts to design structural improvements to waterfront facilities, with the intent of protecting Battery Park City from future water-related catastrophic events caused by storms. The plan is currently 30% complete and in the Draft Scope phase.

Whereas, the Battery Park City Authority has proposed a resiliency plan for the Battery Park City area; and

Whereas, implementing permanent nine foot-plus wall structures will obstruct views of the waterfront and result in hazardous conditions for cyclists and pedestrians in the park; and

Whereas, no environmental impact studies were presented to assess the consequences of floodwaters hitting the proposed wall and causing waves to rebound into the park; and

Whereas, no environmental impact studies were presented to evaluate the potential effects of the proposed wall on neighboring communities, including areas north of No Moore Street.

Whereas, the strategy of constructing an unsightly wall establishes a precedent that Community Boards 1, 2, and 4 have previously rejected in past resolutions; and

Whereas, after careful consideration and analysis, it has been determined that the proposed plan is not in the best interests of Hudson River Park, or areas that border Hudson River Park; and

Whereas, the proposed plan fails to adequately address the concerns and needs of the community, and neglects important aspects of resiliency planning; and

Whereas, the plan lacks transparency, community engagement, and fails to consider alternative approaches that may be more effective and sustainable; and

Whereas, the implementation of the proposed plan would result in significant disruptions, inconveniences, and financial burdens for Hudson River Park, the residents and businesses of Battery Park City; and

Whereas, alternative strategies and approaches exist that have the potential to achieve better outcomes in terms of resiliency, sustainability, and community well-being;

Whereas, the Advisory Council has requested that the governor and mayor form a multi-agency city/state task force to develop a more coordinated approach to flood control protection and resiliency.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Hudson River Park Advisory Council rejects the Battery Park City Authority resiliency plan in its current form; and

Be it further resolved that the Hudson River Park Advisory Council entreats the Battery Park City Authority to reconsider its approach and actively engage in substantive dialogue with the Hudson River Park Trust, the residents, and businesses surrounding the park and the businesses operating within Hudson River Park, to formulate a comprehensive and unequivocally inclusive resiliency plan; and

Be it further resolved that the Hudson River Park Advisory Council requests the establishment of a task force comprised of local experts, local elected officials and the community boards for the purpose of working on an effective resiliency plan; and,

Be it further resolved that the Hudson River Park Advisory Council encourages the Battery Park City Authority to explore alternative strategies and approaches that prioritize community input, transparency, and long-term sustainability; and

Be it finally resolved that the Hudson River Park Advisory Council pledges to work collaboratively with the Battery Park City Authority, the recommended city/state task force, and other stakeholders to identify and support alternative resiliency measures that address the unique needs and aspirations of the Battery Park City community.

Adopted on September 12, 2023.

Vote: Unanimous with 2 abstentions (R. Corman, A. Zelter)