



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)