



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**CHRISTINE BERTHET**  
Chair

**JESSE BODINE**  
District Manager

January 16, 2015

Ms. Madelyn Wils  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Hudson River Park Trust  
Pier 40, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
353 West Street  
New York, NY 10014

**Re: Pier 54/Pier 55**

Dear Ms. Madelyn Wils:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) is pleased that the Hudson River Park Trust (HRPT) has secured the generous donation of over \$100 million from the Diller- von Furstenberg family. MCB4 does, however, have concerns regarding the proposed project of Pier 55 for which these funds are earmarked. MCB4 does recognize that Pier 54/55 is just south of our District in Manhattan Community Board 2 (MCB2). Albeit the process is for MCB2 to carefully examine the potential impacts of the Pier 55 project on their community, certain aspects of the proposed plan will affect MCB4 due to the close proximity of our community board border and the fact that this proposed project may impact the park as a whole. For these reasons MCB4 feels compelled to comment.

Traffic in and around Pier 54/55 is a primary concern for MCB4. As is the case with the High Line in our district, the proposed pier is bound to attract multitudes of visitors to Hudson River Park. MCB4 has been on record regarding high traffic problems that occur during large events within the park. MCB4 would like to ensure any plans for Pier 54/55 include mitigation of potential traffic issues for the areas both immediately in the vicinity of, and also north of the proposed Pier 55.

Noise is also a concern for the residents of MCB4. HRPT has done a wonderful job improving noise conditions for events within the Park and maintaining an open dialog with the community as well as rapid response to complaints. MCB4 would like to know that noise issues will be considered during the planning of this new section of the park.

Understanding the financial needs of HRPT, the generous donation from the Diller- von Furstenberg family is obviously welcomed. MCB4 has eagerly awaited the completion of the Park within our district. The Pier 55 press release stated that HRPT will have the ability to concentrate efforts to complete other parts of the park. It is our hope that funds, perhaps even

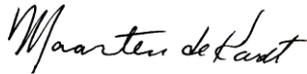
funds generated by this project, can be secured to build out the unfinished areas in the MCB4 district.

While the current plans that were revealed for the proposed new Pier 55 seem innovative and conceptually appealing, MCB4 is concerned over the lack of public involvement throughout the process. As private/public partnerships increase projects tend to be more about the vision of the donors than the needs of the residents. This is troublesome for our Board as our diverse population continues to grow and our demographics are changing. Since we rank among the bottom of districts with open green space we need to ensure our available green spots satisfy the various segments of the population. Defining and meeting the needs of the community should be a priority when planning new public space. MCB4 looks forward to the next phase of the project which will undoubtedly include community input.

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet  
Chair



Maarten de Kadt Co-Chair  
Waterfront, Parks &  
Environment Committee



Delores Rubin Co-Chair  
Waterfront, Parks &  
Environment Committee

cc: Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator 97  
Richard Gottfried, NY State Assemblymember 98  
Linda B. Rosenthal, NY State Assemblymember  
Jerrold Nadler, Congressman 99  
Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President 100  
Corey Johnson, NYC Councilmember