

January 13, 2003

Hon. Robert Balachandran
President
Hudson River Park Trust
Pier 40 @ West Houston Street & West Street
2nd Floor
New York, NY 10014

Re: Pier 57 Process

Dear Mr. Balchandran:

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 regrets not having received a reply to the attached letter of October 8th of last year asking to enter a dialogue with you about setting up a public process for developing and implementing a plan for the future of Pier 57.

The passage of three months has made it clear that such a process is overdue. A reasonably definite commitment that the busses will leave the pier at or shortly after the middle of next year leaves little time for developing a plan for the soon-to-be-empty pier. Bus personnel at the pier have told us that representatives of the Chelsea Piers have over a long period made repeated visits to Pier 57 accompanied by technical personnel. While we respect the operators of Chelsea Piers and recognize the value of their contribution to the area, Chelsea Piers is a private operation, and for them to obtain a privileged position in the future of this pier would be very disturbing to the community and to all who are concerned with the Hudson River Park. The communities this Board represents feel they already bear a disproportionate burden in the many facilities that cut them off from the water and the sparseness of their short sections of true waterfront park. We therefore hope to see this pier converted for the greatest public use possible.

Open public process has been a key to the success of the Park: Pier 40 is only the latest example of a process in which the community has taken a full part, even at times the lead. A full public process is all the more essential in this case because the future of Pier 57 is governed only by the general provisions and restrictions of such enactments as the Hudson River Park Act, waterfront zoning, and the Army Corps of Engineers permit. The Hudson River Park Act and all the successive plans for the park have made no specific provisions whatever for Pier 57—with the exception of the walkway around the outside

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of the structure consistent with waterfront zoning—so that there has never been the occasion for the public input into its future use or appearance that has taken place for the rest of the Park.

The extraordinary opportunities this huge and exceptionally designed structure offers for multiple spaces and uses might well be missed or dismissed without an open process. The pier has the capacity to serve not only the needs of the immediate community but also the requirements of groups with wider scope and wider constituencies, such as those involved in sports, the arts, and maritime history. This large pier might possibly also house a limited number of park-compatible uses that could bring income to maintain the pier and the park nearby.

The Board will be reaching out to interested organizations and individuals that might be able to advise us in planning for Pier 57 or take part in such planning themselves. We hope that we can join the Trust in planning for this pier. We already fear we have waited too long.

Sincerely,



Simone Sindin

Chair

Manhattan Community Board No. 4

John Doswell

Co-Chair

Waterfront & Parks Committee

Pam Frederick

Co-Chair

Waterfront & Parks Committee

Enclosure

cc: Congressman Jerrold Nadler
 State Senator Thomas Duane
 Assembly Member Richard Gottfried
 Assembly Member Deborah Glick
 Council Member Christine Quinn
 Hon. James Ortensio, Chairman of the Board, HRPT
 Kent Barwick, Municipal Art Society
 Carter Craft, Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance
 Ray Gastil, Van Alen Institute
 Friends of Hudson River Park
 Julie Nadel, 16 Hudson Street 6E, New York City, NY 10013
 Al Butzel, Friends of Hudson River Park
 Hon. Madelyn Wils, Chair, Community Board 1
 Hon. Franz Leichter

