

June 9, 2004

Hon. Gifford Miller
City Council Speaker
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Hudson River Park funding

Dear Mr. Miller,

The members of Manhattan Community Board No. 4 urge you to support a major round of funding -- \$50 million -- for the Hudson River Park in this next budget at a critical time in the park's development.

Just as educators emphasize that the best way to teach children is to start early, we feel we are at a crucial moment in the park's development. While the funding is in place to carry out the designs of Segment 6 and 7, the plans for Segment 5 could die on the vine if we are not able to start now to bring funding to the park.

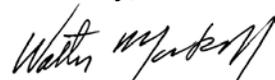
Plans for Segment 5 will be completed next spring. And as things stand now, there's no reason to think the park could be built then without a major infusion of cash now.

The residents of Chelsea have fought long and hard for a park on this neighborhood's waterfront. We also worry that if we do not see funding secured now, as we run through the last of the money dedicated to the park to date, we will be left with yellowing plans and a half-built park, with little political will to get the ball rolling again.

We urge you to commit the \$50 million in this year's budget. Thank you for your consideration, especially given the many priorities you have facing our city's parks. But we remind you that this is an all-city project, not just a neighborhood issue - an opportunity to create the greatest regional park of our lifetimes.

Again, thank you, and please let us know if we can discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff
Chair