



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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WALTER MANKOFF
Chair

ANTHONY M. BORELLI
District Manager

March 7, 2005

Commissioner John Doherty
Department of Sanitation
125 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013

Re: New structure under construction on Gansevoort Peninsula

Dear Commissioner Doherty,

Recently it was brought to the attention of Manhattan Community Board No. 4 by passers-by that some sort of building was under construction at the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) facility on Gansevoort Peninsula. Further investigation shows that this structure is being built on the location of the removed incinerator stacks. A call to Dan Klein's office produced no further information as he was on vacation at the time.

Subsequently, at February's meeting of the Board's Waterfront and Parks Committee, we met with Mr. Klein who explained that the building will be used for temporary servicing of garbage trucks from another district in upper Manhattan as a new garage is being built there. He stated that the structure was temporary in nature and will be demolished when no longer needed, and that this structure would not have the effect of lengthening DSNY's stay on Gansevoort.

As you know, as per the Hudson River Park Act, certain DSNY facilities were to have been removed by the end of 2004 but still remain over a year later: the salt pile and the incinerator (although the stacks have been removed). DSNY and the City are to use their "best efforts" to remove remaining DSNY uses as soon as possible. However, this date seems to be as far as 7+ years away as per the latest DSNY estimates. Further, DSNY, in conjunction with the New York City Economic Development Corporation, has been considering an option to re-open the garbage transfer facility on Gansevoort (Pier 52) for recyclables, along with an education center, a proposal that would, at the least, require an amendment to the Hudson River Park Act.

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Thus, one can imagine how alarming and astonishing it was for us to discover, and second hand at that, the construction of a new building on Gansevoort, with no prior communication, or even a "heads up", from the city or DSNY. Mr. Klein offered his apologies on behalf of DSNY for the lack of notice and was very forthcoming about its use and other issues relating to DSNY plans regarding Gansevoort, and we appreciate this. However, we urge DSNY to realize how important the development of Gansevoort as a part of Hudson River Park is to the Board - indeed, several years ago we agreed to accept garbage trucks from Community District 2 into our district at West 29th Street, with the hope that this would help the speed the transformation of Gansevoort to park land for the benefit of both Community Boards 2 and 4, not to mention the city as a whole.

In the future, we hope there are no more surprises in store for us at Gansevoort - except, perhaps for a pleasant surprise such as the announcement of an accelerated plan to vacate Gansevoort as called for by the Hudson River Park Act.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



John Doswell
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

Pam Frederick
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

cc: Dan Klein, DSNY
local elected officials