



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4**

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**WALTER MANKOFF**  
Chair

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District Manager

May 12, 2005

Congressman Jerrold Nadler  
201 Varick Street, Suite 669  
New York, NY 10014

**Re: Funding for the Passenger Ship Terminal**

Dear Congressman Nadler,

We write for two reasons. First, to thank you for the \$7 million you secured for the Hudson River Park. As you know, the completion of the park is one of the board's main priorities. We look forward to the opening of Segment 7 this spring, and the monies you have secured make the completion of Segment 5 a less distant reality.

We also thank you for the \$4 million you secured for the Passenger Ship Terminal. Manhattan Community Board No. 4 and its Waterfront and Parks Committee recently reviewed the plans for the Passenger Ship Terminal at Piers 88 and 90, presented by the New York City Economic Development Corporation and its consultants.

We are very excited about the plans, not only because they promise to encourage a water-dependent use that we support, but also because the operational improvements planned for the piers will greatly improve quality of life issues in Clinton. Better bus parking, improved vehicular flow and access as well as an expanded apron around the pier will go a long way towards reducing the traffic and getting vehicles off our residential streets and the highway.

The plans also promise to reopen the waterfront along these piers to the public, and could possibly even find ways to draw pedestrians to the viewing galleries on the piers. We have long hoped to find a way to bring the walkway back to the bulkhead at this location, and fulfill the idea of a uninterrupted waterfront promenade through the Hudson River Park, past the terminals and into Riverside Park South.

But the project, which is being funded by the cruise industry, stops at anything outside the scope of operational improvements to the piers and the access areas. We request that you consider securing funding this coming year for some improvements to the terminal that would make it more of a destination and a city landmark:

- The demolition of the helices at either end would go a long way toward improving the look of the terminal and improving the light and air around the walkway/bikeway. These do not aid in traffic flow and in fact tend to keep cars in the facility longer.

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- A roof that adds some design element to the structure would make it more of a destination. As the home one of the city's most profitable and exciting industries, the terminal has little visual or architectural presence – and it should. A covered roof could also have a practical purpose as well, for protecting cruisegoers in the winter and rain.
- As well the ramps should be treated creatively to somehow improve their look and presence. From the West Side Highway, and in fact any points east, they serve now as a hulking visual blockade to the terminal. While they cannot be removed, a creative architectural solution for the ramps could greatly improve the terminal's visual impact.

While the improvement of the Passenger Ship Terminal is a citywide strategy, it has great potential to make a difference to our neighborhoods. Making this a location with some majesty would be a boon to the industry, the public and residents of Community Board 4.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff

Chair

Manhattan Community Board No. 4



John Doswell

Co-Chair

Waterfront & Parks Committee

Pam Frederick

Co-Chair

Waterfront & Parks Committee