



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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CHRISTINE BERTHET
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

June 23, 2014

Tom Lindon
Vice President of
Marketing & Events
Hudson River Park Trust
Pier 40, 2nd Floor
353 West Street
New York, NY 10014

Wayne Goldberg
Vice President Operations
Live Nation New York
220 West 42nd Street
New York, NY 10036

Craig Goetsch
Vice President Production
Live Nation New York
220 West 42nd Street
New York, NY 10036

Re: Pier 97 Summer Concert Series

Dear Mr. Lindon, Mr. Goldberg and Mr. Goetsch:

Manhattan Community Board 4 greatly appreciates, and welcomes, having been kept up to date about the series of 12 to 15 music events you are planning for Pier 97 this summer. These events are intended as fund raisers for the Hudson River Park Trust, which is in need of the funds likely to be generated by these events.

You visited with the Waterfront, Parks and Environment Committee first in February and again in May. The shows will feature top name artists. With your configuration of the stage and entrance/exit for the audience, the pier's capacity is 5,250 people. Your design faces the stage toward the west, away from the nearby residential community. Your sound design intends to buffer the sound that might travel across Manhattan. You have worked with the New York City Police Department to design a way to move attendees as they come to and leave the events safely by having them cross under the highway at about West 59th Street and use the service road between 59th Street and the pier. Your intention is to keep attendees off of the bicycle path except at the entrance to the pier where there will be security personnel to direct the flow of pedestrians and bicycles. You indicated that there will be security personnel all along the probable entrance routes for folks coming to and leaving the event. All of your events will end by 10 pm.

However, we are gravely concerned by the disruption a periodic inflow of 5,250 people through our community will cause. Members of the WPE Committee and the public attending the meeting expressed a number of concerns and suggestions that we list below.

While you have assured us the sound will not disturb our neighborhoods, events of this kind have caused noise disruption before. We request that you follow the recommendations of a certified sound engineer to mitigate potential noise disturbance to neighboring residents and buildings. In

addition, with you directing the sound across the estuary, we wonder what the effect will be on our neighbors in New Jersey.

While you have assured us users of the bicycle path will not be disrupted by the flow of people coming to and leaving the event, we cannot see how that is possible with the movement of so many people. Members of the WPE Committee do not pretend to be expert on this issue. Therefore, we suggested that you visit with CB4's Transportation Committee and were pleased to have learned you did so. We also suggested that you attend the local Police Precinct Council meetings.

While you promised to end every event by 10 pm, the committee was concerned with the noise of concert goers leaving the event and by the noise of entertainers removing their equipment.

The committee made several suggestions we hope you will work to implement:

- Use solar energy as much as possible for each event. Here the Clearwater organization was cited as a likely source of information as they use solar energy at their annual Great Hudson River Revival event.
- Use other sustainable practices including recycling and having vendors provide their product in reusable, recyclable materials.
- Devise a mechanism so that some of the funds raised by these events will go to Clinton Cove and its boathouse.
- Some participants at the WPE Committee meeting in May suggested a more varied series of performers including classical.
- Seating and access to the venue for persons covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- An active, staffed phone number that is well publicized for the purpose of receiving complaints and comments during the times of the events.
- Follow recommendations of a certified sound engineer to mitigate potential noise disturbance to the neighboring residents and buildings.

MCB4 is an active supporter of the Hudson River Park Trust and what it does for our community. The Hudson River Park is enabling members of our community to come to the Hudson River Estuary, enjoy its beauty, find moments of relaxation and places to play, and enjoy recreation along its bicycle path. We have expressed our concern about the large amounts of funds needed for the upkeep of the park not only because of the damage caused by Sandy, but by the ordinary damage caused by the sea to the pilings underpinning much of the park. Yours is a worthy effort to raise funds for this important amenity for our community that we support with caution.

As your event is new in our district and as you have been very forthcoming with information about your plans, we ask that your report back to CB4 periodically (as you have been doing): the progress of your planning and the success (or failure) of the various elements of your planning and implementation of these events.

We thank you for your forthrightness, and look forward to continuing to work with you to make this a successful summer on Pier 97.

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet
Chair



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



Delores Rubin Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks &
Environment Committee