

The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 1

Tammy Meltzer CHAIRPERSON | **Lucian Reynolds** DISTRICT MANAGER

October 12, 2022

Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Rohit Aggarwala, Chief Climate Officer
Department of Environmental Protection
59-17 Junction Boulevard, 13th Floor
Flushing, NY 11373

Kizzy Charles Guzman, Executive Director
Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice
253 Broadway, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Bryce W. Wisemiller, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District
Jacob K. Javits Federal Building, Room 17-401
C/O PSC Mail Center
New York, NY 10278

B.J. Jones, President
Battery Park City Authority
200 Liberty Street, 24th Floor
New York, NY 10281

Andrew Kimball, President and CEO
New York City Economic Development Corporation
One Liberty Plaza, 165 Broadway, 14th Floor - Mailroom
New York, NY 10006

RE: Need for additional clarity and integration of all resiliency plans for Lower Manhattan, including the newly released NY/NJ HATS proposal

On behalf of the Lower Manhattan community, as we approach the 10th anniversary of Superstorm Sandy we appreciate and support the efforts at community outreach and the progress our elected officials have made toward creating responsible resiliency plans at the federal, state and municipal levels for Lower Manhattan.

Concern:

Despite the outreach efforts and progress, the resiliency plans are presented as segmented projects with insufficient clarity as to how each plan connects and forms a coherent part of an integrated overall approach to the protection of Lower Manhattan. As a result, there remains some degree of public confusion regarding the plans.

It remains unclear to many in the community, why different modeling and climate assumptions seem to be being used to determine the scope and scale of each project, with some plans addressing only the impact of sea level rise, others focusing more on storm surge, and still some others relying on other assumptions. Some plans propose adoption of passive measures, others not. Some prioritize water access, others not. Resilience plans for certain directly adjacent coastal areas show anticipated flood elevations above sea level of 11 feet, while plans for others show anticipated elevations at over 18 feet.

In Battery Park City for example, the proposed plan for the alignment of Rockefeller Park recently presented to the public includes an alternative which allows the park to remain relatively intact. The public understandably has asked for an explanation as to why the neighboring Wagner Park plan did not include a similar alternative to avoid razing the existing park.

Importantly, the NY/NJ HATS proposal must now be taken into account as its implementation, despite its remaining uncertainty, could radically alter the cost/benefit analysis of the current plans versus any alternatives. The public needs to understand if this proposal is complementary or conflicting and how this will be resolved with currently planned next steps.

Request:

We strongly urge the public's need for a better and holistic understanding of the City's resiliency plans be addressed before moving forward with any new projects.

There are outstanding elements that would enable the public to understand and support a comprehensive plan for Lower Manhattan that include:

1. The principles and data that underlie all current resiliency plans holistically across all of Lower Manhattan;
2. How and why each planned segment adheres to and/or deviates from these principles;
3. The details of how precisely the current resiliency plans interconnect to each other physically, logistically, and chronologically; and
4. What changes to these plans should and could be considered in light of the new U.S. Army Corps of Engineers NY/NJ HATS proposal.

It is critical the community receive a comprehensive plan which identifies the plans resiliency principles and which addresses the entirety of the Lower Manhattan peninsula, before any new demolition or construction begins. We who have lived through Sandy fully understand the urgency in protecting Lower Manhattan. We must assume and believe that, with the years of work behind us by our government agencies, this request can and should be able to be addressed with minimal delay and impact on schedules and costs.

We ask that these elements and details be presented clearly, with large scaled detailed drawings inclusive of perspectives, sections and 3 dimensional models. We also ask that site tours be

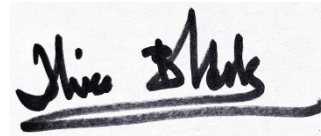
arranged for the public. At each presentation, we urge that the climate scientists who have been advising the city, state and federal agencies be on hand to explain to the public the principles driving the plans and to address the rationale for deviations from the principles and differences between each plan. Their expertise would also be useful in demonstrating the effect that a 100- and 500-year storm would have on each area with and without the proposed project (and alternatives).

Lower Manhattan's resiliency plans will be a global role model that will forever change our communities, and the coastline of Lower Manhattan. The community urges MOCEJ, EDC, BPCA and all other city, state and federal agencies involved with the City's resiliency planning to respond to this request and address these issues with and for the Lower Manhattan community before any new projects break ground.

Best Regards,



Tammy Meltzer
Chair, Manhattan Community Board 1



Alice Blank
Chair, Environmental Protection Committee

CC: Basil Seggos, Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Brian Kavanagh, NYS Senator
Yuh-Line Niou, NYS Assembly Member
Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Christopher Marte, City Council Member
Daniel Garodnick, Chair, City Planning Commission
Jordan Salinger, Senior Policy Advisor, MOCEJ
Gwen Dawson, Vice President, Real Property Battery Park City Authority