

In Re FCRC April 2023 Hearing Video NYC - Mayor`s Office of
Contract Services (MOCS
April 10, 2023

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

-----X

REMOTE PUBLIC HEARING
FRANCHISE and CONCESSION REVIEW COMMITTEE

-----X

April 10, 2023
2:30 p.m.

Remotely via
Microsoft Teams

Julia M. Speros
Court Reporter

In Re FCRC April 2023 Hearing Video NYC - Mayor`s Office of
Contract Services (MOCS
April 10, 2023

2

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

A P P E A R A N C E S:

Mayor:
Allison Stoddart

Office of the Mayor:
Malcolm Cain

Corporation Counsel:
Kenisha Sutton

Office of Management and Budget:
Yvonne Quintian

Comptroller:
Christian Stover

Borough President of Bronx:
Janet Peguero

Borough President of Brooklyn:
John Douglas

Borough President of Manhattan:
Tomi Vest

Borough President of Queens:
Allan Swisher

Borough President of Staten Island:
Lauren Lefkowitz

Department of Parks and Recreation
Alexander Han

Department of Transportation
Rachel Frumin

Clerk:
Kimberly Egbert

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

PROCEEDINGS

THE CLERK: Today's hearing is being held via Microsoft Teams conference call and we ask that all attendees announce their name for the record each time they speak on the call for ease of transcription.

If you are not speaking, we ask that you mute your microphone to avoid background noises during the call. Only one person should be speaking at any given time. I will direct, should there be any conflict.

As a reminder, due to the anticipated volume of testimony for today's hearing, we are asking anyone wishing to testify to register their name, affiliation, which Calendar Item they wish to testify on, and whether they are for or against said item to the Clerk via email at fcrc@mocs.nyc.gov.

We will be accepting testimony from anyone who was unable to register after all those registered have been heard.

Chair, we are ready to begin.

In Re FCRC April 2023 Hearing Video NYC - Mayor`s Office of
Contract Services (MOCS
April 10, 2023

4

1 MS. STODDART: Thank you. This is
2 Alison Stoddart, Chair of the FCRC.
3 Good afternoon and thank you all for
4 being here.

5 The Franchise and Concession Review
6 Committee Public Hearing will now come
7 to order.

8 Will the Clerk please call the roll?

9 THE CLERK: Mayor.

10 MS. STODDART: Alison Stoddart,
11 present.

12 THE CLERK: Office of the Mayor.

13 MR. CAIN: Malcolm Cain, present.

14 THE CLERK: Comptroller.

15 MR. STOVER: Christian Stover,
16 present.

17 THE CLERK: Corporation Counsel.

18 MS. SUTTON: Kenisha Sutton,
19 present.

20 THE CLERK: Office of Management and
21 Budget.

22 MS. QUINTIAN: Yvonne Quintian,
23 present.

24 THE CLERK: President, Borough of
25 the Bronx.

1 MS. PEGUERO: Deputy Borough
2 President, Janet Peguero, present.

3 THE CLERK: President, Borough of
4 Brooklyn.

5 MR. DOUGLAS: John Douglas, present.

6 THE CLERK: President, Borough of
7 Manhattan.

8 MS. VEST: Tomi Vest, present.

9 THE CLERK: President, Borough of
10 Queens.

11 MR. SWISHER: Allan Swisher for
12 Queens Borough President, Donovan
13 Richards, present.

14 THE CLERK: President, Borough of
15 Staten Island.

16 MS. LEFKOWITZ: Lauren Lefkowitz,
17 present.

18 THE CLERK: Representative,
19 Department of Parks and Recreation.

20 MR. HAN: Alexander Han, New York
21 City Parks and Recreation, present.

22 THE CLERK: Representative,
23 Department of Transportation.

24 MS. FRUMIN: Rachel Frumin,
25 Department of Transportation, here.

1 MS. STODDART: Thank you. This is
2 Alison Stoddart.

3 Welcome to this Remote Public
4 Hearing of the Franchise and Concession
5 Review Committee. The hearing being
6 conducted today has been publicly
7 advertised in accordance with the New
8 York City Charter and Concession Rules
9 of the City of New York.

10 We want to be sure that anyone
11 desiring to be heard has an opportunity
12 to do so. We are registering
13 individuals now for later testimony.
14 Those registered will be called upon to
15 testify after their Calendar Item has
16 been called.

17 All persons wishing to speak must
18 provide their name, affiliation,
19 indicate which Calendar Items they wish
20 to testify on, and whether they are for
21 or against said item to the Clerk at
22 this time.

23 Due to the anticipated volume of
24 testimony for today's hearing, we are
25 asking everyone wishing to testify to

1 register their name, affiliation,
2 indicate which Calendar Items they wish
3 to testify on, and whether they are for
4 or against said item to the Clerk via
5 email to fcrc@mocs.nyc.gov.

6 We will be accepting written
7 testimony as well from anyone who is
8 unable to testify in the time allotted
9 for this hearing.

10 Each speaker will be allotted
11 approximately three minutes. When you
12 testify, please restate your name and
13 affiliation, if any.

14 Will the Clerk please call the first
15 Calendar Item?

16 THE CLERK: New York City Department
17 of Parks and Recreation, Calendar Item
18 number 1, in the matter of the intent to
19 award a concession agreement to City
20 Island Stables, Incorporated for the
21 renovation, operation, and maintenance
22 of riding stables at Pelham Bay Park in
23 the Borough of the Bronx.

24 The license will provide for one
25 20-year term commencing upon written

1 Notice to Proceed.

2 MS. STODDART: We will take
3 testimony from the public, but first I'd
4 like to ask the members of the Committee
5 if they have any statements.

6 (No response.)

7 MS. STODDART: Will the Clerk please
8 call the next person who wishes to
9 testify?

10 THE CLERK: We have heard all
11 testimony on this Calendar Item.

12 MS. STODDART: Will the Clerk please
13 call the next Calendar Item?

14 THE CLERK: New York City Department
15 of Transportation, Calendar Item number
16 2, in the matter of the intent to award
17 a concession agreement to 21st
18 Associates, LLC for the development,
19 operation, and maintenance of a food,
20 beverage, and/or merchandise concession
21 at Kiosk 3 at Fordham Plaza in the
22 Borough of the Bronx.

23 The license will provide for one
24 five-year initial term commencing upon
25 written Notice to Proceed, which may be

1 renewed for up to three additional
2 five-year terms exercisable at the sole
3 discretion of DOT.

4 MS. STODDART: We will take
5 testimony from the public, but first I'd
6 like to ask the members of the Committee
7 if they have any statements.

8 (No response.)

9 MS. STODDART: Will the Clerk please
10 call the next person who wishes to
11 testify?

12 THE CLERK: We have heard all
13 testimony on this Calendar Item.

14 MS. STODDART: Will the Clerk please
15 call the next Calendar Item?

16 THE CLERK: New York City Department
17 of Parks and Recreation, Calendar Item
18 number 3, in the matter of the intent to
19 award a concession agreement to Busters
20 Marine Bronx Marina, LLC for the
21 renovation, operation, and maintenance
22 of a full-service marina at Locust Point
23 in the Borough of the Bronx.

24 The license will provide for one
25 20-year term commencing upon written

1 Notice to Proceed.

2 MS. STODDART: We will take
3 testimony from the public and hear from
4 the Committee, but first, the agency
5 presenting this Calendar Item would like
6 to make a brief statement.

7 MR. HAN: Thank you, Chair.

8 New York City Parks is pleased to
9 bring our Draft License Agreement with
10 Busters Marine Bronx Marina, LLC for the
11 operation of the Locust Point Marina to
12 the FCRC for a public hearing.

13 This agreement is the result of a
14 competitive solicitation process, which
15 Parks undertook in accordance with all
16 City Concession Rules.

17 Our License Agreement with the
18 proper -- with the prior operator
19 expired on April 1, 2023. That date was
20 established 20 years ago At the time the
21 prior agreement was signed.

22 Under the Concession Rules, no
23 agreement may be extended past the
24 20-year term and there were no renewal
25 options remaining on the prior

1 agreement.

2 To clarify, the prior agreement is
3 not a lease that can continuously be
4 renewed. In accordance with the City's
5 Concession Rules, Parks is required to
6 engage in a Competitive Solicitation
7 process for a successor agreement.

8 Our RFP required that any subsequent
9 operator provide the same core services
10 at the site, meaning that Parks should
11 choose an operator committed to
12 providing both the full-service public
13 marina and a food service concession to
14 the public.

15 We look forward to listening to
16 comments from the public at this hearing
17 and ask that all parties speak
18 respectfully to and of each other.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. STODDART: Thank you.

21 Would anyone from the Committee like
22 to make a statement?

23 MS. PEGUERO: Hi. Good afternoon.
24 Janet Peguero on behalf of Bronx
25 Borough President, Vanessa L. Gibson.

1 MS. STODDART: Thank you.

2 MS. PEGUERO: Thank you, Chair, And
3 thank you everyone for joining.

4 We want to state for the record that
5 although we trust that the City's
6 competitive solicitation RFP process is
7 a fair one, we may have missed the mark
8 during this election.

9 We are truly disappointed at the
10 lack and/or little consideration of the
11 unprecedented times that our small
12 businesses continue to face as they work
13 towards recovery from a global pandemic.
14 As a City, we speak to the ideal that
15 our small businesses are the backbone of
16 our City, yet we're not fully committed
17 to supporting our long-standing
18 businesses as they face harsh
19 transitions and ending of contractual
20 agreements, such as this one.

21 The City needs to do a better job at
22 implementing a strong transition plan
23 and processes inclusive of an
24 inner-agency strategy to support
25 long-standing businesses that have been

1 operating in City-owned land for over 20
2 years as they conclude their contractual
3 agreement. It is the least we can do,
4 as government entities, providing them
5 with a bridge towards success after the
6 end of their contracts versus locking
7 their doors.

8 We cannot overlook the fact that
9 this is a long-standing business in
10 operation for over 20 years right here
11 in the Bronx, something that we must
12 support and preserve, an entity that is
13 loved and wanted by their residents.

14 We need to look beyond the
15 application and understand that behind
16 their DBA and EIN number, these
17 businesses are people, families, and
18 entities that provide local jobs and
19 support for local economic development.

20 This is an MWBE business that never
21 turned its back on its neighbors -- his
22 neighbors, and that even though they had
23 to shut their doors during the pandemic,
24 they continued to support their
25 employees.

1 Once again, we thank the -- Terry
2 and the entire team at the Icehouse Cafe
3 for loving and serving the Borough of
4 the Bronx.

5 MS. STODDART: Thank you.

6 Would anyone else from the Committee
7 like to make a statement?

8 (No response.)

9 MS. STODDART: Okay. We will now
10 take testimony from the public.

11 Each speaker will be allotted
12 approximately three minutes. When you
13 testify, please restate your name and
14 affiliation, if any.

15 We will do our best to make sure
16 everyone has an opportunity to speak,
17 but if the hearing ends before you are
18 able to testify orally, you may also
19 submit written testimony to the Clerk
20 which will be made part of the record
21 and shared with the Committee.

22 Any written submissions must be
23 given to the Clerk by close of business
24 day today via email to
25 fcrc@mocs.nyc.gov.

1 Will the Clerk please call the next
2 person who wishes to testify?

3 THE CLERK: Jonathan Behling, please
4 provide your full name and affiliation
5 for the record.

6 MR. BEHLING: No affiliation, just
7 in support of David Schmidt and Busters
8 Marine.

9 THE CLERK: Yes, thank you.

10 You have three minutes to testify.

11 MR. BEHLING: My name is Jon
12 Behling. There's no affiliation, just
13 in support of David Schmidt and Busters
14 marine.

15 I own a restaurant and
16 (indiscernible) hotel. I've worked with
17 David Schmidt and Busters Marine since
18 2001. David is a great businessman,
19 kind, trustworthy, and reliable. He has
20 been in the marine and restaurant
21 industry for years.

22 I strongly support him running the
23 marina restaurant in the Bronx. I think
24 he will do a great job.

25 THE CLERK: Thank you so much.

1 Richard Beck, please provide your
2 full name and affiliation for the
3 record.

4 (No response.)

5 THE CLERK: Richard Beck, please
6 provide your full name and affiliation
7 for the record.

8 (No response.)

9 MR. DeBOER: Brian J. DeBoer.

10 THE CLERK: Sorry, is Richard Beck
11 still on the call?

12 (No response.)

13 THE CLERK: Okay. We'll move on.

14 Chris Bosquet, please provide your
15 full name and affiliation for the
16 record.

17 (No response.)

18 THE CLERK: One more time, Chris
19 Bosquet, if you're on the call.

20 (No response.)

21 THE CLERK: Okay. Richard
22 Holzhauser, please provide your full name
23 and affiliation for the record.

24 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: The people are
25 being muted. They're not able to speak.

1 THE CLERK: You can press *6 on your
2 phone to un-mute yourself.

3 MR. BECK: Hello. Can anyone hear
4 me?

5 THE CLERK: Yeah.

6 MR. BECK: Yeah, this is Richard
7 Beck -- this is Richard Beck. I was
8 just called a few minutes ago and I was
9 trying to speak. I didn't know to press
10 *6.

11 THE CLERK: Okay -- sure. Go ahead.

12 MR. BECK: Thank you.

13 My name is Dr. Richard Beck. I'm a
14 former employee of Busters Marine. I've
15 known David Schmidt and his family for
16 over 25 years now.

17 David operates a phenomenal
18 business. He is a gifted and talented
19 businessman and wonderful for the
20 communities that he works in. I am
21 honored to have worked with him and
22 known them.

23 I fully support him to run the
24 marina in the Bronx.

25 THE CLERK: Thank you so much.

1 Chris Bosquet, if you're still on
2 and would like to speak.

3 MR. BOSQUET: Yes, I'm on.

4 My name is Christopher Bosquet. I'm
5 also a friend, colleague, and former
6 co-worker of David Schmidt. I've known
7 him for almost 30 years. I knew him in
8 college, as well as post-college working
9 together also at Busters Marine, as well
10 as other businesses.

11 David is an astute business
12 professional. He's an entrepreneur at
13 heart. I've seen David take on business
14 challenges with years of experience, as
15 well as little experience, and succeed
16 in both instances.

17 Whatever David puts his mind to,
18 he's going to figure out how to do it,
19 do it well, do it profitably, do it
20 honorably, with a lot of integrity. I
21 also know the traveling. I also know
22 (indiscernible).

23 I've helped them run -- work at the
24 marina for many years and times, and,
25 again, have only found them to be

1 upstanding, professional, and full of
2 integrity and I fully support any
3 venture around them, including -- and
4 I'm excited for this new venture in the
5 Bronx Marina for them.

6 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Hi. Really quick
7 question.

8 I don't mean to interrupt, but it's
9 -- did Busters know to pre-register
10 because it just seems like there's a lot
11 of Busters' people speaking, which is
12 fine.

13 I think everybody should have their
14 opinion voiced, but it seems like they
15 knew to pre-register when people on
16 behalf of having called for Icehouse did
17 not. So, I'm just a little confused.

18 THE CLERK: Sure. We've been
19 indicating since the beginning of this
20 call that people can register and we're
21 just reading off the -- in the order
22 that people are registering through the
23 email address.

24 Okay. Richard Holzhauer -- Richard
25 Holzhauer --

1 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: So nobody knew
2 ahead of time to pre-register, correct?
3 Everybody found out the same exact time?

4 THE CLERK: That's correct.

5 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I was not aware I
6 needed to pre-register, so what do I do?

7 THE CLERK: You can -- you can
8 register -- you can register right now
9 via email to fcrc@mocs.nyc.gov.

10 Anyone who -- anyone who is not able
11 to register will be heard at the end of
12 those who have been registered.

13 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Okay. Could you
14 just repeat that email, again, please?

15 THE CLERK: Absolutely. It's
16 fcrc@mocs.nyc.gov.

17 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you so much.

18 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Excuse me, I
19 registered April 6th and I have yet to
20 be called.

21 THE CLERK: Okay. I just would like
22 to clarify, if you submit written
23 testimony to the email address, that
24 written testimony will be provided to
25 the FCRC Committee after the hearing.

1 If you would like to -- to testify
2 in -- in the call currently, please send
3 an email to that same email address to
4 get on the list.

5 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I did -- I did.

6 THE CLERK: Great. We'll get to you
7 soon. Thank you.

8 Okay. Richard Holzhauer, please
9 provide your full name and affiliation
10 for the record.

11 (No response.)

12 THE CLERK: If you're muted and
13 can't un-mute, you can push *6 to
14 un-mute.

15 Richard Holzhauer.

16 (No response.)

17 THE CLERK: Okay. We're gonna move
18 on.

19 Elliot Groman --

20 MR. GROMAN: Hi there.

21 THE CLERK: -- please provide --
22 please provide your full name and
23 affiliation for the record. Thanks.

24 MR. GROMAN: Hi. My name is Elliot
25 Groman. I own a children's summer day

1 camp called Camp Maritime that, you
2 know, I've been working with Busters,
3 you know, during my ownership since
4 2017.

5 They service my whole fleet. I
6 bought a bunch of boats from there. I
7 mean, I'm not the best boater in the
8 world. I got stuck a couple of times.
9 They've actually -- even though they
10 don't tow, but just as goodwill knowing
11 that, you know, I'm stuck somewhere,
12 they helped me out and I think they --
13 Busters are amazing.

14 I think they would do a phenomenal
15 job. I think they -- you know, it would
16 be an amazing synergy between the
17 marina, and Busters, and Dave Schmidt.
18 You know, I have only good things to say
19 and I -- usually I don't -- don't have a
20 lot of great things to say about a lot
21 of great people, but Dave Schmidt, I do.

22 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
23 testimony.

24 MR. GROMAN: All right. Thank you.

25 THE CLERK: Okay. Kurt Bohrer,

1 please provide your full name and
2 affiliation for the record.

3 MR. BOHRER: Good afternoon. This
4 is Kurt Bohrer. I am the Business
5 Development Manager for Mercury Marine.
6 I cover the Connecticut through Delaware
7 area for Mercury, including the Metro
8 New York area.

9 I have worked with David Schmidt and
10 Busters Marine for the past five years.
11 They are among our top dealers -- you
12 know, Mercury dealer. For Mercury
13 dealers, we have silver level, gold
14 Level, platinum, and platinum elite
15 levels. Busters is classified as a
16 platinum elite Mercury dealer, which is
17 our highest level.

18 He has been one of our top dealers,
19 not only in the New York area, but also
20 the country for us. I often get to
21 spend a good amount of time with David
22 and his team at the boat shows and it's
23 clear how they treat the customers.
24 They run a highly successful business.

25 From the interactions with all these

1 customers, you could tell -- whether
2 they're new customers or old customers,
3 they really seem to form a relationship
4 with the -- with the customers, which is
5 great to see. They are extremely
6 capable of running a successful marina
7 and I can't think of another marina that
8 -- another Mercury dealer that would do
9 a good job of running the Bronx Marina.

10 So, I definitely would recommend
11 them to run the marina and don't
12 hesitate to reach out with me -- to me
13 with any questions if you have any
14 further questions. Thank you.

15 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
16 testimony.

17 Joann Pappalardo, please provide
18 your full name and affiliation.

19 MS. PAPPALARDO: Joann Pappalardo
20 for Icehouse, concerned citizen.

21 I'd like to know that -- why the
22 Icehouse Cafe has changed all the
23 funding for the marina, and if in doubt
24 (sic) they're gonna give it to somebody
25 else, they should be paid for their

1 time, effort, and legal advice, and
2 services that they used to obtain that
3 money.

4 They weren't given adequate time to
5 get out. Women in business -- it's a
6 small family-run business as opposed to
7 a huge corporation. They've been doing
8 a great job. They've done a lot for the
9 community and you're just giving
10 everything to the big corporations.
11 Someone just stated how it was
12 worldwide.

13 They need to give the small
14 businesses an opportunity to run things
15 and adequate time to get out. If in
16 doubt (sic) they were told February 1st
17 and the Icehouse did not have adequate
18 time to get their stuff out.

19 They have boats there. They have
20 plenty of time invested and then they
21 should be paid for the FEMA money and
22 their time and effort to get that FEMA
23 money.

24 They've been doing a great job for
25 the community. They've been doing

1 fundraisers for the Police Department
2 and for other sick children in the area,
3 and the community wants a small-based
4 community business there.

5 They have a big affiliation with
6 Maritime College. They give children --
7 the kids there an opportunity for
8 working.

9 They continued to work all during
10 COVID, paying their staff and paying
11 full rent. They were --

12 THE CLERK: You have one minute
13 remaining.

14 MS. PAPPALARDO: -- they were only
15 given -- they were only given 30 days
16 and when Busters was told they had the
17 proposal, they've never said anything to
18 the Icehouse. All the staff are left
19 with no jobs and the family. While the
20 Parks told numerous people they were
21 confident they would have a job, there
22 is no work for them.

23 They said a 10-13 was called --
24 rushed to the scene while they were
25 taking out supplies, the minute they

1 were told to take over. This sounds all
2 very fishy. There are people that could
3 have used the 10-13 mandate for
4 something else, not for getting a family
5 taking their supplies out of a business.
6 They sent four cop cars? That's a waste
7 of taxpayer money.

8 That -- there was no marina there
9 when they started. It was strewn tires.

10 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
11 testimony. We're at time.

12 Thank you so much.

13 Just a reminder -- just a reminder,
14 if you're not speaking, please mute your
15 microphone. There's a lot of
16 interference on the call right now.

17 Thank you.

18 Okay. Next we have Michael
19 Gerasimov. Please provide your full
20 name and affiliation for the record.

21 (No response.)

22 THE CLERK: If you're not speaking,
23 please mute your microphone. We have a
24 lot of background noise right now.

25 Michael Gerasimov, if you're on the

1 call, you can testify now.

2 (No response.)

3 THE CLERK: If you're muted, You can
4 push *6 to un-mute.

5 (No response.)

6 THE CLERK: Okay. Next I have Mike
7 Z from Brooklyn Genesis.

8 Please provide your full name and
9 affiliation.

10 MR. ZAFRAMULE: Hello. Can you hear
11 me?

12 THE CLERK: Yes, go ahead.

13 MR. ZAFRAMULE: Hi. I'm Michael
14 Zaframule (phonetic), Brooklyn Genesis
15 Development, LLC.

16 I've known David Schmidt since
17 approximately 2003. I can say he's a
18 man of high integrity, excellent
19 business mind, and I would be proud to
20 have them in my community.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to
22 speak.

23 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
24 testimony.

25 Next we have Brian J. DeBoer.

1 Please provide your full name and
2 affiliation for the record.

3 (No response.)

4 THE CLERK: Brian DeBoer, if you're
5 muted, you can push *6 to un-mute.

6 MR. DeBOER: Hello. Can you hear
7 me?

8 THE CLERK: Yes.

9 MR. DeBOER: Hello. This is Brian
10 J. DeBoer.

11 (No response.)

12 MR. DeBOER: Hello?

13 THE CLERK: Yes, you have three
14 minutes to testify. Thank you.

15 MR. DeBOER: I'm sorry. I hit the
16 pound/pound so many times.

17 My name is Brian J. DeBoer and David
18 has been a friend and a business
19 associate for about 20 years now.

20 I've purchased two boats from him
21 and I don't just want to just go on
22 record and say, "He's a great guy" or
23 "We were in the Boy Scouts together",
24 but I want to say something important.

25 I'm hearing a lot of the testimony

1 and it's great, but being a former
2 police officer for 25 years and a PBA
3 delegate for the last 20, I've learned
4 to help a lot of people and serve the
5 community, which is a very courageous
6 thing to take on these days.

7 But the boating community is more
8 than just customers waiting for you --
9 there's a community of people and I
10 think it's a very unique group of people
11 that help each other -- where you will
12 see somebody on the side of a road just
13 pulling over to help somebody, the same
14 thing is on the water.

15 And where -- as far as Dave is
16 concerned -- and being a customer of two
17 boats from Dave -- when you need help
18 and you're on a boat -- it's not like
19 you can just call AAA -- you need
20 somebody that's going to answer their
21 phone and that's one of his best
22 (indiscernible) because he has helped me
23 with little things -- tremendous things
24 -- to keep me floating because my boat
25 is my peace.

1 That -- especially with COVID,
2 people learned to social distance just
3 with yachting and boating, and Dave's
4 entire family is the backup. A man to
5 be strong, but without the community and
6 his family, then he's just a man.

7 And I'd like to thank -- oh, that's
8 my beep. I'd like to say thank you very
9 much for the opportunity to speak on his
10 behalf.

11 THE CLERK: Thank you so much for
12 your testimony.

13 Next we have Tim Minogue -- Minogue
14 -- please provide your full name and
15 affiliation for the record.

16 MR. MINOGUE: This is Tim Minogue.
17 Can you hear me?

18 THE CLERK: Yes, go ahead.

19 MR. MINOGUE: Hi. I am a sales
20 representative for Kellogg Marine Land
21 'N' Sea. We are wholesale distributors.
22 We sell parts and accessories to the
23 boating industry.

24 David and Busters Marine have been a
25 customer of ours for 35 years plus.

1 They're one of our top dealers. They're
2 a family-owned and operated business.
3 David, obviously, was an integral part
4 of their operation and has been a big
5 reason for their success and growth.

6 They're a pleasure to do business
7 with. I've seen them interact with
8 their customers in a friendly, helpful,
9 patient way. They treat their staff as
10 part of -- and more importantly, they
11 earn the respect of their customers by
12 following through and getting the job
13 done.

14 I believe they'll be a big asset to
15 the boating community of the Bronx and
16 the surrounding area as well. Thank you
17 for letting me speak.

18 THE CLERK: Thank you so much for
19 your testimony.

20 Just a reminder, if you're not
21 speaking, please mute your microphone so
22 that we don't have any background noise
23 in the call.

24 Next, we have Roland Hayes.

25 Please provide your full name and

1 affiliation for the record.

2 MR. HAYES: My name is William
3 Roland Hayes and Dave Schmidt is my
4 son-in-law.

5 Can you hear me?

6 THE CLERK: Yes, you have three
7 minutes to testify.

8 MR. HAYES: Okay.

9 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Shit-head -- fuck
10 you.

11 MR. HAYES: Well, again, I'm a
12 disabled veteran. I was wounded and I
13 received three Purple Hearts in the
14 Vietnam conflict.

15 I also am a retired Correctional
16 Officer for the State of New York and I
17 volunteer and I work with the DAV, and I
18 also am a tour guide down at the Buffalo
19 Water -- Naval Waterfront.

20 Now, with all this experience with
21 people, Dave Schmidt is one of the most
22 honest people that I've ever come in
23 contact with and he is very, very
24 welcome to be in my family.

25 So, I'm saying that by having Dave

1 Schmidt down at that wharf in the Bronx
2 is one of the best things that could
3 happen to the City of New York.

4 THE CLERK: Okay. Thank you so much
5 for your testimony.

6 Next, we have Julie Minching.

7 Please provide your full name and
8 affiliation for the record.

9 MS. MINCHING: Hello. Julie
10 Minching -- can you hear me?

11 THE CLERK: Yes, go ahead. Thank
12 you.

13 MS. MINCHING: So, I am for Hammond
14 Cove Marina. The business has been run
15 for 20 years. It's a family-owned
16 business.

17 I heard there were some cops on this
18 call. I just want to say, I think that
19 they should be worried -- and this
20 wasn't Busters, this was Parks -- but
21 Parks did call a 10-13 on the family as
22 they were cleaning out their business,
23 which I think that's extremely
24 disturbing.

25 That could have gotten not only

1 police officers hurt driving there fast,
2 it could have also got citizens hurt as
3 they were emptying out the Icehouse.

4 Also, while this may be legal, and
5 that is controversial at this moment, it
6 was completely immoral -- what was done
7 and how it was done. They were given
8 less than a month's notice after calling
9 numerous times a day asking, "Can we do
10 this", "Are we getting this proposal",
11 and they were just told, "We'll let you
12 know in a week".

13 It is now online, the Busters' news,
14 since February 1st. So, why the family
15 was told with less than a month's notice
16 is not okay.

17 Another thing is, there's over 3,000
18 signed petitions from the community
19 saying that they want this to stay, and
20 the fact that that is not being heard,
21 is appalling.

22 The family is also there 24/7. They
23 go during storms. During Hurricane
24 Sandy, they were literally on a float
25 wrangling boats up and stayed the whole

1 time to make sure that the boats and
2 community were safe.

3 Besides for the family themselves,
4 they left the Icehouse with no jobs.
5 Parks Department said that they're
6 certain that they will have jobs. There
7 is no restaurant, so the staff was given
8 no notice.

9 The FEMA money that Justin worked
10 hard to get was withheld since at least
11 2015 and is now being distributed. Now,
12 the marina will get new docks, new
13 electric, new everything when that was
14 money that was awarded to Justin.

15 THE CLERK: One minute remaining.

16 MS. MINCHING: The fact that --
17 okay. I know there's a lot of people on
18 the business end talking about them
19 being good and we're not saying that --
20 they might be good at business -- but
21 this is a community, Throgs Neck, and
22 Throgs Neck wants to keep it within
23 Throgs Neck.

24 And the fact that we're just giving
25 it over for business, sometimes it's

1 more than business -- that that business
2 has run a successful business paying
3 full rent, paying their staff. They
4 survived COVID and now that they're
5 finally almost on the up and up, the
6 City wants to take it away with an
7 immoral two-week notice.

8 It's also a woman-owned business and
9 during Women's History Month -- or
10 Women's Month, you guys decided to tell
11 them. You could have told them in
12 January; you could have told them in
13 February.

14 There's just a lot of questions, I
15 think, that are unanswered as of now.
16 The fact that the point system is not
17 made public yet -- it's not just about
18 money. There's a point system, which we
19 would like to see be made public and
20 that has not been made public yet.

21 So, there's a lot of concerns from
22 the citizens and --

23 THE CLERK: That's your time.

24 Thank you so much for your
25 testimony.

1 Next, we have Alex Porco.

2 Please provide your full name and
3 affiliation for the record.

4 (No response.)

5 THE CLERK: Alex Porco, if you're on
6 the call, if you're muted, you can push
7 *6 to un-mute.

8 MR. BRADDOCK: George Braddock,
9 (indiscernible) State Civic Association.

10 MR. PORCO: Alex Porco -- I just
11 un-muted myself. Can you hear me?

12 THE CLERK: Yes, this is Alex?

13 MR. PORCO: Yes, this is Alex Porco.
14 I am representing the Office of State
15 Senator Nathalia Fernandez of District
16 34 covering the Bronx and Westchester.

17 On behalf of Senate District 34 and
18 the Borough of the Bronx, we want to
19 express our deep disappointment in the
20 imprudent rejection of the Icehouse to
21 manage the restaurant and marina at
22 Hammond Cove.

23 We, along with members of the Throgs
24 Neck community and beyond, are vocally
25 opposed to the City's decision to throw

1 out the current operators who have
2 turned the property into a local
3 institution and should remain its
4 stewards.

5 For 20 years, they have managed the
6 marina, created a beloved restaurant,
7 and have consistently been a good
8 partner and neighbor to the entire
9 community. So often does public service
10 go unnoticed and in this case, the great
11 service and care that the MWBE certified
12 owner, Theresa Dambinskas, has given to
13 the marina and surrounding community is
14 being completely disregarded.

15 This entire process, from start to
16 finish, has lacked professionalism and
17 respect for our community. By what
18 criteria is Busters and the Schmidt
19 family more qualified to take over the
20 marina? They have no ties to the area
21 and there are no investments we are
22 aware of that they plan to make at the
23 Icehouse that were not already committed
24 to make.

25 Additionally, we met -- we demand to

1 know why this meeting was not held via
2 videoconference after repeated requests.

3 This merits -- this issue merits an
4 in-person meeting, or at least a video
5 conference, rather than this dial-in
6 process that I think everyone on this
7 call can agree seems to purposely
8 obfuscate the issue and make it more
9 complicated for our community members
10 who support the Icehouse to make their
11 voices heard.

12 Thank you.

13 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
14 testimony.

15 Next, we have Teresa DiBenedetto.

16 Please provide your full name and
17 affiliation for the record.

18 (No response.)

19 THE CLERK: If you're on mute,
20 remember, you can push *6 to un-mute.

21 (No response.)

22 THE CLERK: Teresa DiBenedetto, if
23 you're on the call, you can speak.

24 MS. DiBENEDETTO: Okay. Hi. My
25 name is Teresa DiBenedetto and I'd like

1 to speak on behalf of the Icehouse
2 Restaurant and Marina.

3 The City did not behave or execute
4 this appropriately at all. They gave no
5 written warning and also gave
6 insufficient advanced notice considering
7 that they've been saying otherwise to
8 the family for months.

9 It's an absolute shame when
10 considering that the Dambinskas family,
11 who were the previous tenants, are here
12 and continue to be here operating within
13 the community. We're very upset about
14 the 10-13 that was called into the
15 Police Department. This is just
16 atrocious and so many things could have
17 backfired when this happened.

18 The community doesn't want or need
19 an outsider operating in their
20 neighborhood. Be transparent as to why
21 David was elected and why he's also
22 trying to operate off of the hard work
23 that the previous tenants spent so much
24 time accomplishing, including securing
25 the FEMA funds when the -- because

1 families weren't allowed to use it in
2 their written contracts.

3 And that's all I'd like to say
4 today. Thank you for your time.

5 THE CLERK: Thank you -- thank you
6 for your testimony.

7 Next, we have Natasha.

8 If you're on the call, please
9 provide your full name and affiliation
10 for the record.

11 (No response.)

12 THE CLERK: Natasha, if you're on
13 the call, you can speak now.

14 Remember, you can push *6 to un-mute
15 your phone if you're muted.

16 (No response.)

17 THE CLERK: Okay. We're gonna move
18 on.

19 Karl Gerasimov, please provide your
20 full name and affiliation for the
21 record.

22 MR. GERASIMOV: Hi. Good afternoon,
23 hearing panelists and call panelists.
24 My name is Karl Gerasimov. I'm the
25 owner of New Urban Hospitality.

1 I've known David Schmidt and his
2 family since the winter of 2007 when I
3 worked at the Javits Convention Center
4 at the boat show. Ever since then, I
5 can tell you he's been a consummate
6 professional, and even a caring guy.

7 And since I've known him for the
8 last dozen or so years, I must have
9 called him maybe two or three times on
10 FaceTime whenever I needed anything --
11 any help with any boat -- and he always
12 was willing to help -- hop on a call,
13 help me out, even though I'm not a
14 paying customer -- even though I never
15 bought a boat.

16 That's the kind of guy he is, always
17 willing to go an extra mile for anyone
18 that he knows, anyone that he met
19 before. Just a real caring guy. Thank
20 you very much.

21 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
22 testimony.

23 Next time have more Lauren Spintig.

24 MS. DAMBINSKAS: Hi. I'm Natasha.
25 I think I just missed my testimony.

1 I just want to say that, yes, while
2 he -- Dave may also be there for his
3 customers, Terry and Justin have been
4 there for their customers through a
5 global pandemic. They've been there for
6 their staff. They have paid their
7 staff. They have paid full rent.

8 They help the community out. They
9 help everyone out they can. They're
10 literally there 24/7. They live five
11 minutes away. If there is an issue with
12 the marina, how will somebody come all
13 the way from Long Island all the way to
14 the Bronx in a short notice?

15 I'm also curious to know how long
16 they have been running marinas and what
17 marinas because experience-wise,
18 points-wise, I don't see how they would
19 have. Within the Dambinskas family,
20 they have 20-years experience in both
21 the restaurant and marina business, so I
22 can't understand how with experience
23 points, they would have won that.

24 And I'm just very disappointed that
25 it's come to this and disgusted that the

1 City tried to give them a last minute
2 warning to try to screw them. The City
3 has made this personal.

4 The City wanted to embarrass them.
5 The City took somebody that's
6 70-years-old and told them in two weeks,
7 you have no income, and to me, that is
8 absolutely appalling.

9 The bidding process started in
10 October. There's no reason why it
11 should have had to wait this long. They
12 could have gave proper notice and it's
13 -- the whole thing is actually appalling
14 and disgusting, and that should be
15 reviewed. If this is correct and if
16 this is lawful, then the City needs to
17 review their laws, because this is not
18 okay.

19 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
20 testimony.

21 Natasha, can you please provide your
22 full name and affiliation, if any, for
23 the record?

24 MS. DAMBINSKAS: Natasha Dambinskas,
25 the owners' daughter.

1 THE CLERK: Great. Thank you very
2 much.

3 MS. DAMBINSKAS: Well, I would like
4 to add one more thing since now I have
5 said my full name.

6 Seeing my parents go through this,
7 it's heart-wrenching. What the City has
8 done to them, I can't even describe to
9 you. I've had customers coming in there
10 crying hysterically to me saying, "I'll
11 never see you again", and I'm like,
12 "Well, hopefully, I'll see you around in
13 the neighborhood".

14 You didn't give us a chance to say
15 goodbye to the marina people. You did
16 not give us a chance to say goodbye to
17 our restaurant customers. This
18 community is a part of us.

19 We were from Queens. We moved here
20 because we love this community so much.
21 We are staying here and what they have
22 done to my parents at 70-years-old, they
23 pushed them to the side and acted like
24 we are nothing and it's a --

25 THE CLERK: One minute remaining.

1 MS. DAMBINSKAS: While this may be
2 legal, it is absolutely disgusting, and
3 the rules should be re-evaluated -- to
4 push people aside like this -- to give
5 them no livelihood and no meaning when
6 this was their whole life.

7 And I know I said a lot of words,
8 but I am actually at a loss for words.
9 You do not -- people do not care what
10 the community thinks and that is
11 heart-wrenching to me. Listen to the
12 people in the community. It's not just
13 business.

14 There's a lot of people from Kellogg
15 talking; a lot of people from Mercury
16 talking. Where's the heart in that?
17 There is no heart. Thank you.

18 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
19 testimony.

20 Lauren Spintig, please provide your
21 full name and affiliation for the
22 record.

23 (No response.)

24 THE CLERK: If you're muted, you can
25 push *6 to un-mute.

1 (No response.)

2 THE CLERK: Lauren Spintig?

3 (No response.)

4 THE CLERK: Okay. Bonnie Lubinsky,
5 please provide your full name and
6 affiliation for the record.

7 (No response.)

8 THE CLERK: Reminder, you can push
9 *6 to un-mute if you're trying to speak
10 and you're muted.

11 (No response.)

12 THE CLERK: Sorry, is Bonnie on the
13 call?

14 (No response.)

15 THE CLERK: Okay, we're gonna move
16 on.

17 Art Kersting, if you're on the call,
18 please provide your full name and
19 affiliation for the record.

20 MR. KERSTING: Art Kersting, retired
21 former 911 Director for Westchester
22 County Government, and also, I'm here
23 for Hammond Cove and the Icehouse.

24 I just want to say in my former
25 career, I was the 911 administrator. I

1 did a lot of RFPs. I've never seen one
2 handled like this one. I'm going to
3 tell you, the Icehouse has served this
4 community.

5 I would go in there and eat twice a
6 week, every week, and a couple of years
7 ago -- maybe two or three years ago -- I
8 went to them and said, "My house is
9 getting too small to have Thanksgiving.
10 Could you do Thanksgiving Wednesday for
11 me at the Icehouse", and they would
12 close it down and I would fly in my
13 family from all over the county, and
14 what little room was left, I would say,
15 "Open it up and let's let the people in
16 the back".

17 This is the kind of people that the
18 Dambinskas are. They are incredible.

19 I watched Justin. I would ask him
20 every week, "How's the lease going",
21 "How's the lease going". "Oh, there's
22 no other bidders. I think we're okay.
23 They should get back to me soon", and he
24 would call. He would call and there was
25 no message -- no message ever -- And

1 then on March 7th, I believe it was --
2 somewhere around there -- they were told
3 to be out by April 1st.

4 This is ludicrous and you give it to
5 somebody from outside of the five
6 boroughs who has no connections to our
7 community after these people and a small
8 woman-owned business turned around and
9 kept it going during the pandemic, the
10 worst time possible.

11 This is a disgrace and there should
12 be an investigation, and that's all I
13 have to say.

14 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
15 testimony.

16 Next, we have Lauren D.

17 Please provide your full name and
18 affiliation for the record.

19 MS. SPINTIG: I didn't know I had to
20 hit *6. My name is Lauren Spintig.

21 THE CLERK: Great. You have three
22 minutes to testify. Thank you.

23 MS. SPINTIG: Okay. So, the first
24 thing I want to say is that I called
25 previously, before April 1st when it was

1 essentially taken away from them -- but
2 I had called and I spoke with Angel
3 Williams at the Parks Department and I
4 discussed concerns not only for, you
5 know, a family losing their livelihood
6 that they've had for over 20 years in
7 less than 30 days, but I also discussed
8 the fact that employees would be losing
9 their jobs.

10 And Angel told me that she was
11 confident that the employees would still
12 have their jobs with Busters Marina, and
13 I said, "So, does that mean that there's
14 still going to be a restaurant of some
15 kind on April 1st", and she said she was
16 confident that the employees of the
17 Icehouse would have jobs.

18 Clearly, that is not true. There's
19 no restaurant up and running and they
20 effectively lost their jobs because of
21 government mishandling of information.

22 Second, Angel Williams was extremely
23 confrontational and really dismissive
24 about these concerns. She kept asking
25 me repeatedly if I work there, and I

1 didn't and I don't, and that did not
2 have empathy for people, and I feel as
3 though it seems the Parks Department had
4 no empathy for what they were doing, and
5 the fact that they handled this so
6 incorrectly.

7 Another thing that I think the Parks
8 Department did not take into
9 consideration is if they did not find
10 out that their lease was not going to be
11 -- or sorry -- the license was not going
12 to be extended, it would be just as
13 risky to sell the equipment that they
14 had -- mand we're not talking about TV
15 stands, or sofas, or chairs -- we're
16 talking about forklifts, and things like
17 that, because they were given less than
18 30 days to try to move out.

19 And I understand that the new owner,
20 who I heard the beginning testimony,
21 that he's a great guy. That's not the
22 problem here. The problem isn't whether
23 the Busters marina's people or owners
24 are good people. The issue is that a
25 business that has been operating and

1 helping the Parks Department during a
2 pandemic were given less than 30 days --
3 less than I have to give my landlord --
4 to get all their things out of their
5 business and I think it's disgraceful.

6 And I just don't even --

7 THE CLERK: One minute remaining.

8 MS. SPINTIG: -- why would we be
9 having a Community Board meeting after
10 the fact also makes zero sense and I
11 would just like to know why the public
12 hasn't been able to see the points or
13 the FOILs.

14 And I'd also like to know, cause I
15 asked Angel this prior, what percentage
16 of marinas do not get their license
17 renewed because if it's anything more
18 than 50 percent, it would have been just
19 as risky for them to have sold their
20 things in anticipation for them not
21 getting extended -- or whatever you want
22 to call it -- renewed -- a new license
23 of 20 years than it was to hold onto
24 them -- hold onto their stuff thinking
25 they might get it. So, I need to know

1 that percentage as well.

2 So, that's all I have to say.

3 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
4 testimony.

5 Next, we have Dennis Galcik.

6 Please provide your full name and
7 affiliation for the record.

8 (No response.)

9 THE CLERK: Dennis Galcik, reminder,
10 you can push *6 if you're muted.

11 MR. GALCIK: Okay.

12 THE CLERK: Dennis?

13 MR. GALCIK: Hi. Dennis Galcik, no
14 affiliation.

15 THE CLERK: Great. Go ahead. You
16 have three minutes.

17 MR. GALCIK: Can you hear me?

18 THE CLERK: Yes, thank you.

19 MR. GALCIK: Hi. Okay. Regarding
20 Busters, we do horseshoe crab monitoring
21 down on Cross Bay Boulevard, Jamaica Bay
22 the past maybe 10 years and we drive by
23 Busters' establishment. They're on
24 Cross Bay Boulevard. It is a horrible
25 place.

1 There is (sic) boats out on City
2 property. There's garbage all over the
3 place on their property and on City
4 properties. I don't know if anyone has
5 looked -- researched into their current
6 business, but, really, you should go
7 there cause it's like a hazmat place.

8 And the funny thing is, is we never
9 knew Busters. You know, every time we
10 went by there, we were like, "Oh, man,
11 I'd hate to live next to this place",
12 and there are houses next to there.

13 So, please go to Google Maps, go to
14 satellite view and take a look at what
15 he will do to our neighborhood, Like he
16 does to his neighborhood -- oh, he
17 doesn't live there. That's right.

18 So, I think the City really has to
19 look hard into the qualifications of
20 somebody considering that that's how
21 they treat their current property. They
22 plan to move that type of nest and that
23 type of attitude into our neighborhood.

24 So, that's my really big point.
25 Like I said, Busters, it's a fire hazard

1 over there.

2 And, secondly, about the marina, I
3 don't believe the RFP process was
4 proper. It kind of sounds quite fugazy
5 (sic). I have no evidence for that,
6 however, there's a community support for
7 the establishment. We were there the
8 last night at the Icehouse and it was
9 really like a funeral.

10 There were so many people there. It
11 was standing room only. People were
12 crying. Customers were crying. It was
13 horrible. It's like a really big part
14 of the community is leaving. They're
15 great people.

16 We used to have our boat there for
17 years. We were there before they had
18 the restaurant that they built in such a
19 beautiful place with maps and stuff for
20 the neighborhood. They really took that
21 place from a vacant lot and made it into
22 something -- something nice -- something
23 really nice, and it was a lot of hard
24 work, and they live right around the
25 corner.

1 THE CLERK: One minute remaining.

2 MR. GALCIK: And I just want to say
3 that the community really supports the
4 Icehouse. If you were there last night,
5 it was hard, but we left in tears. I
6 mean, it seemed like we were losing a
7 family and I think the City needs to
8 re-investigate this whole RFP process as
9 someone else had mentioned. I'd like to
10 see an investigation.

11 Why are we having this call after
12 the fact? Is this going to make any
13 difference? Are you going to cancel the
14 RFP and re-issue it? I'd like to see
15 whose idea it was to authorize this
16 meeting after the fact and I believe
17 there should be an investigation.

18 And that's it. Thank you.

19 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
20 testimony.

21 Beth Torin, please provide your full
22 name and affiliation for the record.

23 MS. DiNOVI: Hello?

24 THE CLERK: Yes, Beth?

25 MS. DiNOVI: Hello. This is Lauren

1 DiNovi.

2 MS. TORIN: Hello?

3 MS. DiNOVI: I think the other
4 Lauren jumped in.

5 THE CLERK: Yeah, Lauren D --

6 MS. DiNOVI: Yeah.

7 THE CLERK: Let me let Beth Torin do
8 her testimony and -- but I will come
9 back to you. Okay?

10 MS. DiNOVI: Okay. Thank you.

11 THE CLERK: Thanks.

12 MS. TORIN: Okay.

13 THE CLERK: Beth, go ahead. You
14 have three minutes.

15 MS. TORIN: My name is Beth Torin.
16 I met -- I've known the Dambinskas for
17 30 years in many different capacities.

18 I am really appalled by what
19 happened because I'm a woman and I feel
20 that the City is really screwing the
21 women and minorities. Terry has run
22 this business for 20 years. She's a
23 woman and minority-owned owner and she's
24 not given any consideration for that.

25 I think that they -- I know they

1 live in the neighborhood. Again,
2 businesses have moved to the
3 neighborhood in order to be close to the
4 marina. They're a New York City family.
5 Buster is not. They live in Long
6 Island. They're from Long Island.

7 Why suddenly, in New York City, do
8 we not care about the people who live
9 here and the people that work here?

10 Both of the Dambinskas children work for
11 the City, one for NYPD and one for the
12 City Department of Education. Justin at
13 one time had worked for the City.

14 They have taken and built an
15 amazing, amazing business. They're very
16 community-focused. I have had all of my
17 family events there and I used to live
18 in the Bronx and now I live in Manhattan
19 and I come from Manhattan to have my
20 parties and events there because there's
21 no place like the Icehouse. It's -- --
22 it's -- it's just, you're family. Every
23 -- Terry treats everybody like family.
24 She doesn't care who you are, what you
25 are.

1 I've seen her give meals away to
2 homeless people. If you don't have
3 money, she doesn't care. You know, if
4 you don't have -- if you need to go home
5 and get the money, go, go. It's a
6 family and everybody up there, it's a
7 Bronx institution.

8 Busters has no affiliation with the
9 Bronx whatsoever and I could go on and
10 on. I also -- as a safety consultant
11 and former employee of the New York City
12 Health Department, I can tell you in
13 looking at the menu --

14 THE CLERK: One minute remaining.

15 MS. TORIN: -- I would like to say
16 that the menu that was submitted for the
17 possible restaurant that will be there
18 was clearly taken from another
19 restaurant. It cannot meet -- it does
20 not meet the needs of the Bronx, and,
21 furthermore, they don't have the
22 equipment in the kitchen to make that
23 menu.

24 Lastly, if you go onto Facebook
25 someone from Busters' family wrote

1 something about their family losing a
2 marina and how hard it was for him to go
3 and look at that marina and remember all
4 the good times. So, they are doing the
5 same exact thing to the Dambinskas
6 family and I think Parks needs to be
7 investigated for what they've done
8 because this is purely Parks playing
9 games.

10 Thank you so much.

11 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
12 testimony.

13 Lauren D -- are you still on,
14 Lauren?

15 (No response.)

16 THE CLERK: Lauren, if you're muted,
17 you can push *6 to un-mute.

18 MS. DiNOVI: Yes -- Hi. Yes. Can
19 you hear me?

20 THE CLERK: Yes, go ahead. You have
21 three minutes.

22 MS. DiNOVI: Hi. This is Lauren
23 DiNovi and I'm calling in support of the
24 Icehouse Marina and marina.

25 I am a very close friend. I was a

1 resident of the Bronx and I have known
2 the Dambinskas family since I was
3 16-years-old. I've seen what they've
4 done with the marina with the house they
5 built -- the Icehouse. The Icehouse was
6 nothing like it was -- like it is now.

7 They built it from the ground up.
8 They've worked extremely, extremely
9 hard. They're there every single day.
10 They greet the customers every day,
11 treat everyone like family.

12 They're like second parents to me as
13 well and I think it's absolutely
14 appalling that after 20 years, not only
15 the family, but the staff was given less
16 than a month's notice.

17 I heard how upset the staff was,
18 including the chefs who have been there
19 for a majority of the period they owned
20 it. Also, after hearing Natasha, the
21 owners' daughter, mention that a 10-13
22 was called is disgusting when they were
23 just trying -- they had two hours flat
24 to move all this major equipment out and
25 a 10-13 was called, which could have put

1 civilian lives in danger if cop cars
2 pulled up for that. It's ridiculous.

3 It's obvious that no one cares what
4 this community wants. It's a very, very
5 special tight-knit community. They all
6 care for each other. They appreciated
7 that the Dambinskas family lived right
8 in the area and were there for them
9 every single day, and also the fact that
10 the Parks Department told the staff that
11 they were confident that they would have
12 jobs there and now there's nowhere for
13 them to work is extremely unjust.

14 I know that Justin worked extremely
15 hard since 2015 --

16 THE CLERK: One minute remaining.

17 MS. DiNOVI: -- to get the FEMA
18 money and now the FEMA money was
19 supposedly put in the proposal of
20 Busters Marine, meanwhile, Justin was a
21 pioneer in getting it.

22 I asked for the FOIL and the points,
23 emailed multiple times, heard nothing
24 back. I tried to call as well for
25 nothing and -- and I don't believe --

1 after doing research on my own, I don't
2 believe Busters Marine really has the
3 experience and it's obvious that only
4 corporate people, for the most part, are
5 calling in on their behalf, and as you
6 can see, the Dambinskas family has a lot
7 of emotional support and people who
8 really care for them, apparently more
9 than the Parks Department and other
10 people do as well.

11 THE CLERK: Okay. That's your time.

12 Thank you so much for your
13 testimony.

14 Next, we have Fallon Lebedowicz.

15 If you're on the call, please
16 provide your full name and affiliation
17 for the record.

18 MS. LEBEDOWICZ: Hi. Can you hear
19 me?

20 THE CLERK: Yes.

21 MS. LEBEDOWICZ: Hi. Great. My
22 name is Fallon Lebedowicz and I am for
23 the Icehouse Cafe and Marina.

24 I've known the Dambinskas family a
25 long time. I actually worked at the

1 marina back when they first were awarded
2 it. I've seen what it was in the
3 beginning. It was just bare bones and
4 I've seen them built -- build up the --
5 not only the Icehouse, but also the
6 marina itself into this thriving
7 community that it is today.

8 They literally did it all by moving
9 to the Bronx as soon as they were
10 awarded it and really just getting down
11 and dirty with everything and building
12 it from the ground up -- and not only
13 that, involving the people of the
14 community into the work of the business
15 there.

16 It's really shameful and appalling,
17 like many people said, that there was
18 little notice given to them for the
19 lease expiring, and on top of that, as
20 you can hear, like other people have
21 mentioned, that the Busters Marina,
22 there -- they are seemingly more
23 sales-oriented.

24 It's kind of like having a bookstore
25 in this location as opposed to a

1 community gym -- and even from hearing
2 the testimonies on their side is
3 primarily male-dominated.

4 While that's kind of a disservice,
5 being that Terry had a woman-owned
6 business at the marina, and you can hear
7 from the testimony that's for the
8 Icehouse, that it's multifaceted. It's
9 male and female and it's not just one
10 sided. There's really a sense of
11 community, not only in what business
12 they created, but also the people that
13 are representing it.

14 So, it's very sad to hear that
15 marina will be lost to Busters Marine,
16 essentially, and it will be definitely a
17 downgrade to the community and perhaps
18 just a sterile boat business where
19 they're just selling boats and not much
20 more there.

21 So, yeah -- I just hope that the
22 parks department can change their
23 structure and really evaluate what it
24 means to have a marina and be a staple
25 in the community, and how that goes --

1 THE CLERK: One minute remaining.

2 MS. LEBEDOWICZ: -- in ranking in
3 how projects are awarded and not that
4 it's just the highest bidder that wins.

5 Thank you.

6 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
7 testimony.

8 Next, we have Ted Kalliff.

9 If you're on the call, please
10 provide your full name and affiliation.

11 (No response.)

12 THE CLERK: Ted Kalliff, if you're
13 muted, you can push *6.

14 (No response.)

15 THE CLERK: Okay. Dorothy
16 Werkmeister, please provide your full
17 name and affiliation for the record.

18 (No response.)

19 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: You got to hit --

20 THE CLERK: Dorothy, you can push *6
21 if you're muted.

22 MS. WERKMEISTER: Hello -- hello.
23 Can you hear me?

24 THE CLERK: Yes, this is Dorothy?

25 MS. WERKMEISTER: Yes, my name is

1 Dorothy Werkmeister and I am in favor of
2 the Icehouse.

3 I have no affiliation with them
4 except that I have been going there for
5 so many years and saw it being built up
6 from nothing to what it is today -- a
7 very, very special part of our
8 community.

9 I am so disgusted to think that the
10 City is having a meeting about it now.
11 Is this a done deal or what? Why would
12 you wait to have a meeting after you're
13 throwing them out? To me, that makes no
14 sense.

15 And all these corporations, and
16 Mercury dealers, and bigwigs with all
17 their money that are talking about what
18 a great guy this David Schmidt is -- I'm
19 not saying he's not a great guy, but
20 what about Terry? What about Justin?
21 What about customers? What about her
22 family?

23 What about the people in Throgs Neck
24 that have been a part of this Icehouse
25 that has helped us go through so many

1 things -- celebrations, funerals -- it's
2 just -- it's so sad.

3 It's just so sad that the City has
4 no regard for its community, for its
5 people. We are the people of the Bronx.
6 Let David Schmidt keep his house in Long
7 Island, keep his business on Cross Bay
8 Boulevard -- or whatever it might be.
9 Actually, I know it's on Cross Bay
10 Boulevard because I've passed it before
11 seeing all those (indiscernible) all
12 over the place and it's a disgrace.

13 Don't hold back nothing. We
14 certainly don't want that here. This is
15 a family-owned business. They belong.
16 We are all part of the community. Why
17 was the community not given an
18 opportunity to speak on their behalf?
19 Why would it be waited until it's over
20 if it really is over and why is the
21 money suddenly available?

22 I just -- I just don't understand.
23 Terry is a family-owned business. She's
24 a woman. She just got this certificate.
25 It was supposed to be protecting

1 women-owned businesses and this is what
2 you do -- really?

3 Hello?

4 (No response.)

5 MS. WERKMEISTER: Hello -- can
6 anybody hear me?

7 THE CLERK: Yes, you have one minute
8 remaining.

9 MS. WERKMEISTER: I'd like to hear
10 some answers. I'd like to find out how
11 this RFP went; how federal -- the money
12 appears for this funeral for them to
13 help. Why -- why is it that Justin is
14 the person who fought for it --
15 (indiscernible) -- Community Board --
16 (indiscernible).

17 They were all -- I just left their
18 office and they told me that they
19 supported Justin looking for the FEMA
20 money and now suddenly this guy from
21 Busters is going to get it? Wow, tell
22 me that's a coincidence. I just don't
23 understand.

24 We need to stick together. Us, in
25 the Bronx, we're here. We belong

1 together. We're a community. We need
2 to be heard and we need to be respected,
3 and given the opportunity to keep what
4 we have, what we want -- not have this
5 be thrown into our face.

6 I think it's a total disgrace and
7 there should be a huge rally and this
8 should be in-person so we can express
9 our feelings and let everyone know what
10 you're doing to us. Some City we live
11 in. No wonder why everyone's leaving.

12 To me, there's no place like the
13 Icehouse.

14 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
15 testimony.

16 MS. WERKMEISTER: I look forward to
17 the opportunity to speak in-person. Let
18 me know when that meeting is.

19 THE CLERK: Okay. Thank you so
20 much. You're at time.

21 Next, we have James Barnhart.

22 Please provide your full name and
23 affiliation for the record.

24 (No response.)

25 THE CLERK: If you're muted, you can

1 push *6 to un-mute.

2 James Barnhart?

3 (No response.)

4 THE CLERK: Okay. We've reached the
5 end of the list of people who have
6 registered to testify.

7 Is there anyone on the call who
8 wishes to testify and was not able to
9 register?

10 MR. DETRANGO: Yes, this is Joseph
11 Detrango. I was not registered. Can I
12 speak?

13 THE CLERK: Yes, please provide your
14 full name and affiliation for the
15 record.

16 MR. DETRANGO: Joseph Detrango, East
17 Bronx Community resident.

18 I'd just like to say that over the
19 years I've frequented the Icehouse, as
20 other folks have testified. It
21 definitely has been an asset to the
22 community and it would be -- really be
23 detrimental to our East Bronx community
24 to lose the family that we've come to
25 know and since they've just been

1 providing service above and beyond.

2 That's all I have to say. Thank
3 you.

4 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
5 testimony.

6 Is there anyone else who was unable
7 to register who would like to testify?

8 MS. BONET-CARDONA: I would. Tamara
9 Bonet-Cardona on behalf of the Office of
10 Council Member, Marjorie Velazquez,
11 District 13.

12 THE CLERK: Okay. You have three
13 minutes.

14 MS. BONET-CARDONA: Thank you.

15 On behalf of New York City Council
16 Member Marjorie Velazquez, we are deeply
17 saddened that -- that a business such as
18 Icehouse Cafe has been forced to close
19 its doors after being a long-term
20 partner in business here in our
21 community.

22 Throughout the dredging of Hammond
23 Cove, Council Member Velazquez worked
24 alongside the owner and was disappointed
25 to hear that the contract went to a

1 different operator once it was complete.

2 This is a local woman-owned
3 business, where the family resides here
4 in the community. As a business that
5 keeps the community on top -- at the top
6 of their mind, they've always worked --
7 they've always strived to work and
8 ensure that their employees and their
9 customers come first.

10 A family establishment, Theresa and
11 her family have remained committed to
12 their clientele, who in their eyes, are
13 family, which is exactly what any
14 community should be. For over 20 years,
15 they have managed the marina, creating a
16 space that is loved by countless people,
17 and has been a good partner and neighbor
18 to all.

19 When we think about longevity --
20 when we think about the Icehouse and its
21 approach and position in this community,
22 we must also protect and uplift our
23 local female-owned businesses,
24 especially those who have contributed to
25 the economic and rich cultural fabrics

1 here, especially in the diverse
2 community that is District 13.

3 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
4 testimony.

5 Is there anyone else on the call who
6 wishes to testify?

7 MS. JAWORSKI: I would, Joann
8 Jaworski.

9 THE CLERK: Okay. Do You have an
10 affiliation?

11 MS. JAWORSKI: No, just I'm a patron
12 of the Icehouse and have been for many
13 years now. I would like to see them
14 remain open.

15 I don't understand why it seems like
16 everyone that was testifying for Busters
17 seems to be able to have a monetary
18 benefit come to them if Busters takes
19 over the marina. Terry and her business
20 have been part of the community for over
21 10 -- 20 years. They're more like
22 family to everyone that's ever entered
23 the doors.

24 You never went into the Icehouse
25 where Terry didn't come to your table,

1 and greet you, and make sure that
2 everything was going well.

3 I don't understand why FEMA money
4 that Icehouse worked towards getting is
5 now going to a large corporation -- why
6 this meeting is happening after the fact
7 after you people called a 10-13 to evict
8 a family from their business of over 20
9 years.

10 Is that -- is the meeting being held
11 over the phone because the Parks
12 Department is afraid of how much
13 community support the Icehouse and
14 Marina -- Hammond Cove Marina has? Are
15 you afraid to see how many people don't
16 want this Busters Marina to come into
17 the community?

18 The fact that it's a woman-owned
19 business being replaced by a corporation
20 is disgraceful. It seems that it was
21 very easy for Busters to be the highest
22 bidder since it's a large corporation.
23 Their current location looks horrendous.
24 I really don't want to see him come
25 over, take over our community marina,

1 and make it look as horrible as that one
2 that he has in Howard Beach looks.

3 The community -- the community here
4 does not want Busters. We want Icehouse
5 and Hammond Cove Marina to continue.
6 Thank you.

7 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
8 testimony.

9 Vincent Mazzone, if you're on the
10 call, please provide your full name and
11 affiliation for the record.

12 MR. REVECCIO: Hello -- hello?

13 THE CLERK: Hi, Vincent?

14 MR. REVECCIO: Hey. No, this is
15 Steve Reveccio. Can you hear me?

16 THE CLERK: Yes.

17 MR. REVECCIO: Hello?

18 THE CLERK: Hi, Steve.

19 MR. REVECCIO: Yeah, hi -- yeah, hi.
20 I just want to say -- yeah, I've had --
21 I'm calling for it and in favor of the
22 Icehouse and I actually have a boat in
23 there for over 20 years.

24 I've known Justin for over 20 years
25 and I actually didn't get the pleasure

1 to work with him. I work for New York
2 City Health and Hospitals where he ran
3 the facilities -- Facilities Manager --
4 or Director of Facilities -- and he had
5 a good reputation there. I never worked
6 for him there -- didn't even know him.

7 When I came to the marina, I didn't
8 know him -- so he's more than capable of
9 running a very big operation that's a
10 very clean operation. And I've seen
11 Busters -- what's his name said --
12 somebody said to look at it on the
13 satellite -- horrible. We don't want
14 this in our neighborhood and I also want
15 to know why this meeting is being --
16 taking place now.

17 If you're in Westchester any other
18 place, there's usually signs on the
19 buildings -- on the place saying that
20 there's going to be a community meeting
21 about this property.

22 Why are we getting the fact after
23 they're being thrown out? Makes --
24 makes no sense -- and also I just want
25 to say that all we heard for in favor of

1 Busters were businessmen -- not even
2 local businessmen -- all these people
3 looking to make a big buck -- don't
4 understand that -- and the people
5 calling in in favor of the Icehouse and
6 keeping Justin and Terry in there are
7 all local people who care about this
8 community.

9 And this is not the first time --
10 within a year, this community has taken
11 a hit from the up-zoning that was pushed
12 out of that. I'm going to stand witness
13 for the City Council or wherever -- as
14 long as this is going on, you know.

15 Also, I want to say, if this does go
16 through -- I guarantee I'm going to push
17 for it and there's going to be a lot of
18 other people who push for it --
19 investigations in everybody that had
20 their finger in this because there's
21 something wrong here. It really stinks.

22 I've never seen -- and I worked for
23 the City for over 30 years -- I've never
24 seen anything like this and it's
25 disgusting. All I can say, you know,

1 Terry -- Terry and Justin, they took
2 their family. They moved -- they moved
3 here when they got this business --

4 THE CLERK: One minute remaining.

5 MR. REVECCIO: Yes -- they moved
6 from Queens to the Bronx, became part of
7 this community. I mean, there are not
8 many (indiscernible) like this left in
9 the City, because this is what the City
10 does.

11 They can beat them down, beat them
12 down, keep beating them down, so they
13 got no more political power. It's all
14 about the money. All I heard was these
15 people that are calling in favor,
16 they're all business people. Mercury,
17 there's Kellogg -- these are not even
18 people from the area. They're not even
19 from the City, I believe. I think
20 they're -- you know, definitely people
21 supporting them.

22 Everybody's looking to make a buck,
23 but -- so I just -- yeah -- and,
24 generally, Terry -- this was a woman
25 small business -- woman-run business.

1 Why is there support for this When there
2 are other contracts to be awarded to
3 minority contractors and everything else
4 in the City?

5 Oh, it's given out -- they'll throw
6 -- they'll throw another company right
7 out of the way. What would happen --
8 what happened to Terry, I don't
9 understand what's going on. Why they're
10 being thrown out there if this is a
11 local person who lives within a few
12 miles of the business?

13 THE CLERK: Okay. You're at time.

14 MR. REVECCIO: Okay. Thank you very
15 much. I just wanted to give my two
16 cents. Thank you.

17 THE CLERK: Thank you. Appreciate
18 the testimony.

19 Vincent Mazzone, if you're on the
20 call.

21 MS. BELLMEISTER: Hello -- hello?

22 THE CLERK: Yes.

23 MS. BELLMEISTER: Hi. Can I speak?

24 THE CLERK: Okay.

25 MS. BELLMEISTER: Hello. Can you

1 hear me?

2 THE CLERK: Yes, one moment.

3 We're just looking to see if Vincent
4 Mazzone is on the call. He's registered
5 to speak.

6 (No response.)

7 THE CLERK: Vincent?

8 (No response.)

9 THE CLERK: Okay. Let's move on.

10 Okay. Who was speaking just now?

11 MS. BELLMEISTER: Hi. My name is
12 Nancy Bellmeister and I have been a
13 patron of the Icehouse Cafe for 20
14 years. I've known the Dambinskas family
15 for 20 years. They're the most
16 generous, kind people you could ever
17 meet.

18 Whenever there was any kind of
19 charity event, or anything that's going
20 on in our local neighborhoods, they
21 don't even think twice about
22 contributing.

23 They've contributed to local
24 precincts. They've contributed to local
25 events. All of the beach clubs on the

1 waterfront, when they have charity
2 events, you don't even have to ask
3 twice. They always contribute and give
4 to the area and that is the kind of
5 people that I want to keep in my
6 community, not somebody who's going to
7 come in and just develop a business and
8 not have any kind of personal skills
9 towards anything else going on.

10 So, I think what's happening with
11 them is an absolute disgrace and it
12 really will be a very, very sad thing if
13 they are -- they are not controlling
14 that Icehouse anymore.

15 It's a woman-owned business. It's a
16 local business, and it's one of the most
17 charitable families you'll ever meet,
18 and I find it very disgraceful that all
19 of this is going on. Thank you.

20 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
21 testimony.

22 Is there anyone else on the call who
23 has not had an opportunity to testify?

24 (No response.)

25 THE CLERK: Okay. We have now heard

1 all testimony on this Calendar Item.

2 For those who are not able to
3 testify --

4 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Is this the
5 questions -- is there time for
6 questions?

7 THE CLERK: We are receiving public
8 testimony at this hearing. We will not
9 be taking questions.

10 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: So, there is not
11 going to be a date where we can meet
12 in-person about this?

13 THE CLERK: Please feel free to
14 reach out to the Parks Department if you
15 have any specific questions.

16 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I'm sorry, I'd
17 like to testify. I've been trying to
18 get un-muted.

19 THE CLERK: Okay. Can you please
20 provide your full name and affiliation
21 for the record?

22 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Sure. My name is
23 -- hello, can you hear me?

24 THE CLERK: Yes -- if you're
25 speaking, please mute your microphone.

1 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: It's Kelly's
2 restaurant.

3 (No response.)

4 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Hello?

5 THE CLERK: Hi. Go ahead. Please
6 provide your full name and affiliation.

7 MS. MOLENINI: Sure. My name is
8 Angela Molenini. I am a longtime Board
9 member of the Merchants Association --
10 Throgs Neck Merchants Association.

11 I personally know Terry, and
12 Natasha, and Justin. We've had our own
13 events there. You keep on hearing about
14 all the generosity that they have.

15 What -- I also, as a resident, we --
16 what we don't understand and I think
17 other people have expressed it -- how
18 come the community knew nothing about
19 it? How come the community didn't get
20 to have a say of what we wanted because
21 we all know Icehouse. We all know
22 Terry. We all know Natasha. We all
23 know Justin.

24 And Terry was actually Businesswoman
25 of the Year for the Bronx Merchants

1 Association one year and all their hard
2 work doesn't seem to get noticed by the
3 City. And this is why people get
4 frustrated, especially with broadsides
5 because we wind up feeling like the
6 stepchild that never gets heard and then
7 what happens? People leave.

8 The Bronx actually has the highest
9 amount of people leaving New York City
10 right now and part of it is things like
11 this. The City just doesn't seem to be
12 hearing us where everybody is telling
13 you, we want the Icehouse to stay.

14 I have nothing against Busters. I
15 don't even know Dave -- David Schmidt --
16 I don't know him, so I can't say
17 anything about that.

18 But I can tell you what the
19 neighborhood likes and it's the fact
20 that we all know this place. It's -- we
21 watched it build up to what it is.
22 We've all have been recipients of their
23 generosity, and their friendliness, and
24 excellent service, but here we are.

25 There's -- I don't know any

1 preliminary studies, no environmental
2 studies that were done -- are going to
3 be done on Busters' project -- I don't
4 know because we haven't heard anything
5 and that's what frustrates us.

6 And we all know the Community Board.
7 We all try to be active members of the
8 neighborhood and we're not getting any
9 answers.

10 THE CLERK: One minute remaining.

11 MS. MOLENINI: We would like --
12 okay. So, ideally, what we would really
13 like to know is what -- what is really
14 being proposed? We know there's no
15 restaurant. Now, we're hearing, what,
16 there's going to be sales of boats? How
17 is that going to affect the environment
18 and the community?

19 What about parking? What about
20 emergency services? We don't know
21 anything because we're not being heard
22 and nobody has asked us anything.

23 So, that's what I really wanted to
24 get on record, that as a community, we
25 want to know what's going on. What --

1 what -- what was proposed, what -- what
2 the City had in mind for this space --
3 because we're not getting a say at all
4 except for this phone call, which
5 probably will fall on deaf ears -- I
6 hope not -- because, you know, there are
7 a lot of people who actually have
8 expressed the same thing I'm saying.

9 I mean, why -- why weren't we asked
10 and I guess that's pretty much it.

11 THE CLERK: Okay. Thank you so
12 much. We appreciate your testimony.

13 Is there anyone else on the call who
14 hasn't had an opportunity to speak?

15 MS. DAMBINSKAS: Hi. I just want --
16 this is Natasha Dambinskas again. This
17 is Terry and Justin's daughter.

18 I know I spoke. I just want to say
19 something very briefly. I want to say
20 thank you to the community for your
21 support. My parents were too upset to
22 be on this call.

23 We still would like to be here for
24 you in some capacity. We're still gonna
25 live here. We still --

1 THE CLERK: Thank you. We
2 appreciate your testimony, but we have
3 to stick to a three minute limit for
4 everyone speaking.

5 Thank you so much.

6 All right. Is there anyone else
7 that we missed -- anyone who didn't get
8 an opportunity to speak?

9 MS. RODOLFSKY: Yes, my name is
10 Alexis Rodolfsky and I'm for the
11 Icehouse.

12 I'd like to know why this meeting is
13 being held after they were asked to be
14 removed. This should have been done
15 with signs and before it was sold or
16 given to another person.

17 They're upstanding citizens and they
18 help the community. I'd like to know
19 what the other corporation has done for
20 any community services instead of just
21 having the people on their sales. They
22 were all giggling in the beginning of
23 the phone call.

24 I really don't understand and this
25 should have been done way before they

1 were asked to vacate the property.

2 Thank you.

3 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
4 testimony.

5 Is there -- is there anyone else on
6 the call who wishes to testify?

7 MS. REVECCIO: Yes, this is
8 Katherine Reveccio. I'd like to
9 testify.

10 THE CLERK: Okay. Go ahead. You
11 have three minutes.

12 MS. REVECCIO: Yes -- Hi. My name
13 is Katherine Reveccio and we've had a
14 boat in the marina for more than 20
15 years and Justin, and Terry, and Natasha
16 are just the best of the best and we
17 just -- we just don't understand why
18 wasn't the community made aware of this?
19 Why such late notice? How could this
20 have happened?

21 We -- we were trusting that we would
22 be able to put our boat in the water.
23 We won't -- we don't even know what's
24 going to go on. It sounds like it's a
25 big business deal instead of the

1 community boatyard that it's supposed to
2 be.

3 It's supposed to be a boatyard for
4 the community. This sounds like it's a
5 big business deal. It's not right that
6 big business can push their way
7 themselves into this community with no
8 regard for this community. There should
9 be signs up. We should know this. We
10 should've had this meeting before it was
11 done.

12 I am so upset and so disappointed
13 because this is our summer that we spend
14 on the Long Island Sound. It's just a
15 bay. This is something that we, as a
16 family, enjoy so much and it's being
17 taken away from us and we don't even
18 know what the plan is going to be to go
19 forward.

20 And I don't know how -- I don't know
21 how this could ever happen. Who is --
22 I'm just so outraged. Who is in control
23 of this and we need to really readjust
24 even if this is what is legal. It
25 sounds like there's a lot of money or

1 businesses that are -- have a lot of
2 stake because they have the money and
3 they have a say.

4 This community is a solid community.
5 I think I've -- I've been raised in this
6 community, and my husband has been
7 raised in this community, and we raised
8 our children in the community. It's
9 really disheartening. It just really
10 is. We've lost so many marinas already
11 in this community. This should never,
12 ever, ever happen and the family is a
13 phenomenal family and they're --

14 THE CLERK: One minute remaining.

15 MS. REVECCIO: They run such a great
16 business and they're always there
17 available to you and they're so kind.

18 And I have a disabled son, who they
19 always welcome and take care of. Every
20 single time they see him, they take care
21 of him and they come over and they're so
22 good to him and I'm disgusted.

23 Thank you for giving me this
24 opportunity.

25 MS. HYLAND: May I speak?

1 THE CLERK: Yes, please provide your
2 full name and affiliation for the
3 record.

4 MS. HYLAND: My name is Kathleen
5 Hyland. I've been living in this area
6 for 50 years. I have been a person that
7 always uses the Icehouse.

8 I've called them many times for the
9 different communities that I've worked
10 with and they have always given without
11 any qualms to the -- all the small
12 businesses around here.

13 I have had -- besides with the
14 generosity of giving to precincts and
15 taking care of families that lose a
16 member, the first one there is Terry
17 with trays of food.

18 Secondly, I would just like to say,
19 my family has been going there for the
20 last 20 years. I have had -- we've had
21 funeral fare, we've had baptisms, we've
22 had engagement parties -- and Terry has
23 always given her generosity to the
24 people of this neighborhood and I can't
25 understand why a woman's business, which

1 is all you hear all over the news --
2 women-owned businesses -- and a
3 corporation that's got all kinds of
4 money can come in here to our area that
5 they don't live in. I don't understand.

6 And I just want to thank you, but I
7 -- I mean, women are supposed to be able
8 to own businesses and small businesses
9 are always pushed on the news and
10 everything, but who's coming in our
11 neighborhoods? Corporations -- that's
12 ridiculous. Thank you.

13 Well, maybe they sell pot.

14 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
15 testimony.

16 Is there anyone else who wishes to
17 testify?

18 MR. MOLENINI: Hi --

19 Hello --

20 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Oh, go ahead.

21 THE CLERK: Yes.

22 MR. MOLENINI: This is Frank
23 Molenini. Hello. I've been a member of
24 the community since 1994. My
25 affiliation is as a customer to

1 Icehouse.

2 I just want to say Ice House has
3 always supported charities. I'm a
4 Kiwanian and they always supported our
5 advertising. They are home to another
6 one of our Kiwanis Clubs, the Throgs
7 Neck Kiwanis, and Kiwanis has a lot of
8 children's charities and they've always
9 supported us and we were always
10 customers.

11 And the Icehouse has been kind of
12 like an impromptu town hall. There's a
13 lot of history on those walls. There's
14 -- there were pictures of the marina
15 from the 1930s, from the 1950s showing
16 the progression of the development of
17 the marina and I believe that they were
18 treated wrongly and nobody from Busters
19 presented anything to CB 10 prior to
20 this.

21 It's ridiculous that the community
22 did not have a chance to even see any
23 environmental impact studies, no
24 preliminary design studies, no parking
25 studies, no studies about how many

1 people are going to be coming through
2 this community -- transient -- and we
3 don't know how that's going to impact
4 our community.

5 We've been -- as many people said,
6 this is a quiet maritime community and
7 the way that the businesses -- the
8 business was run prior to this, it was
9 woven into the community so beautifully
10 and --

11 THE CLERK: One minute remaining.

12 MR. MOLENINI: It was woven into the
13 community so beautifully and they
14 befriended many, many people within this
15 community.

16 And you heard the testimony and I
17 just want to say, please help these
18 people understand that this is where --
19 the direction we wanted to be headed in
20 against development. We don't want big
21 corporate development in our backyards.

22 Thank you.

23 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
24 testimony.

25 Is there anyone remaining on the

1 call that wishes to speak?

2 MS. DiGIROLAMO: Yes, I would.

3 THE CLERK: Okay. Please provide
4 your full name and affiliation for the
5 record.

6 MS. DiGIROLAMO: Kelly DiGirolamo.
7 I've worked at the Icehouse for the last
8 15 years managing the restaurant and
9 managing the office. I was very
10 involved with the RFP process and
11 something is really fishy here.

12 We have been calling since November
13 and been told, "Don't worry, don't
14 worry, you got it. Nobody else bid",
15 and all of a sudden on March 7th, we
16 find out, out of nowhere, that we lost
17 it.

18 Everyone's life has been turned
19 upside down. Terry and Justin have
20 never said no to anyone in this
21 community for anything that was asked
22 for. I think this needs to be
23 thoroughly investigated and I think
24 something is very fishy with the Parks
25 Department, and, believe me, we're going

1 to continue looking into it.

2 Thank you.

3 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
4 testimony.

5 Is there anyone else who has not had
6 an opportunity to speak?

7 MS. SPINTIG: Hi. My name is Deonna
8 Spintig and the point that I want to
9 raise is just how unfair it is to the
10 current business owner and the community
11 not to have any opportunity to
12 understand the process that was
13 conducted and to, at this late date,
14 have an opportunity to speak when it
15 appears that a decision has been made.

16 It seems very unfair and
17 un-businesslike to do this in this
18 manner and I would like to know, if
19 there is an answer to this, when the
20 decision was ultimately made because the
21 folks there just had something like
22 20-days notice on an extremely long-term
23 lease.

24 So, I'm disappointed in the way that
25 this was conducted and it just seems

1 just unbelievable that a government
2 entity could do business in this manner.

3 THE CLERK: Thank you for your
4 testimony.

5 Is there anyone else on the call
6 that hasn't had an opportunity to speak?

7 (No response.)

8 THE CLERK: Okay. For those who
9 were not able to testify, you have until
10 the end of today to submit written
11 testimony to fcrc@mocs.nyc.gov. All
12 written testimony will be provided to
13 the FCRC for their review and
14 consideration.

15 We have now heard all testimony on
16 this Calendar Item.

17 MS. STODDART: Thank you. Before we
18 conclude, I want to ask if any of the
19 agencies presenting Calendar Items today
20 have any statements for the record prior
21 to the close of the hearing?

22 MR. HAN: Parks Department has --
23 would like to respond.

24 MS. STODDART: Go ahead. Thank you.

25 MR. HAN: Thank you.

1 We want to thank everyone for
2 participating in today's hearing. We
3 understand there are strong feelings
4 regarding the award at this concession
5 and we thank the prior operator for the
6 years of service.

7 We're confident that Busters Marine
8 will provide a high level of service to
9 the public at Locust Point, which
10 includes both the marina and a food
11 service concession. They presented an
12 exceptionally strong proposal outlining
13 their planned operations, including
14 community programming, their capital
15 commitment, and personal investments to
16 enhance the site, their experience in
17 the field, and their fee offer to the
18 City.

19 We hope that residents of the Bronx
20 and local patrons will welcome them to
21 the community and enjoy the services
22 they will provide.

23 Any suggestion that there were --
24 was proper -- improper conduct by Parks
25 regarding this award is false.

1 Additionally, personal attacks against
2 Parks' employees who are trying to do
3 their job to the best of their ability
4 is simply not appropriate.

5 Parks followed the Concession Rules
6 and made a selection that is in the best
7 interest of the City and in accordance
8 with the selection criteria that was
9 outlined in the RFP. Thank you.

10 MS. STODDART: Thank you.

11 Would anyone else -- any other
12 agency care to wish -- care to make a
13 statement?

14 (No response.)

15 MS. STODDART: Okay. If no one else
16 wishes to speak, that concludes today's
17 hearing.

18 We ask that the reporter make the
19 entire public hearing agenda, which was
20 made publicly available and distributed
21 at this hearing, part of the final
22 record of the proceeding.

23 The hearing is now closed. Thank
24 you.

25 THE CLERK: Thank you all for being

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

here today.

(Time noted: 4:15 p.m.)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

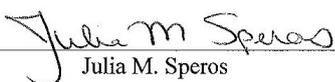
CERTIFICATION

I, JULIA M. SPEROS, a Notary Public
for and within the State of New York, do
hereby certify:

That the witness whose testimony as
herein set forth, was duly sworn by me;
and that the within transcript is a true
record of the testimony given by said
witness.

I further certify that I am not
related to any of the parties to this
action by blood or marriage, and that I
am in no way interested in the outcome
of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand this 10th day of April,
2023.



Julia M. Speros