

In Re FCRC Public Hearing NYC - Mayor`s Office of Contract  
Services (MOCS)  
March 3, 2023

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REMOTE PUBLIC HEARING  
FRANCHISE AND CONCESSION REVIEW COMMITTEE

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Moderated by Allison Stoddart  
Friday, March 3, 2023  
2:45 p.m.

Spector Hall  
22 Reade Street  
New York, NY 10007

Reported by: Chanyri Figueroa Monsanto

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A P P E A R A N C E S

- List of Attendees:
- Allison Stoddart, Mayor
- Ya-Ting Liu, Office of the Mayor
- Kenisha Sutton, Corporation Counsel
- Yvonne Quintian, Office of Management and Budget
- John Katsorhis, Comptroller
- David Cerron, Parks and Recreation
- Tomi Vest, Manhattan BP
- Thomas Olivia, Public Speaker
- Kimberly Egbert, Clerk

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MS. STODDART: Good afternoon and thank  
3 you for being here. The Franchise and Concession  
4 Review Committee Public Hearing will now come to  
5 order. Will the Clerk please call the roll?

6 THE CLERK: Mayor?

7 MS. STODDART: Present.

8 THE CLERK: Office of the Mayor?

9 MS. LIU: Ya-Ting Liu, present.

10 THE CLERK: Comptroller?

11 MR. KATSORHIS: Present.

12 THE CLERK: Corporation counsel?

13 MS. SUTTON: Present.

14 THE CLERK: Office of Management and  
15 Budget?

16 MS. QUINTIAN: Present.

17 THE CLERK: President of Borough of the  
18 Bronx? Let the record reflect President, Borough of  
19 the Bronx is not present.

20 President, Borough of Brooklyn? Let  
21 the record reflect President, Borough of Brooklyn is  
22 not present.

23 President, Borough of Manhattan?

24 MS. VEST: Present.

25 THE CLERK: President, Borough of

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1 Queens? Let the record reflect President, Borough of  
2 Queens is not present.

3 President, Borough of Staten Island?  
4 Let the record reflect President, Borough of Staten  
5 Island is not present.

6 Representative, Department of Parks and  
7 Recreation?

8 MR. CERRON: Present.

9 MS. STODDART: Welcome to this Public  
10 Hearing of the Franchise and Concession Review  
11 Committee. The hearing being conducted today has been  
12 publicly advertised in accordance with the New York  
13 City Charter and Concession Rules of the City of New  
14 York. We want to be sure that anyone desiring to be  
15 heard has an opportunity to do so.

16 All persons wishing to speak must fill  
17 out a request slip, which may be obtained from the  
18 Clerk. Those registered will be called upon to  
19 testify after their calendar item has been called.  
20 You may also submit written testimony to the clerk  
21 which will be made part of the record. Any written  
22 submissions must be given to the clerk before the  
23 close of the public hearing.

24 Will the Clerk please call the first  
25 calendar item?

1 THE CLERK: New York City Department of  
2 Parks and Recreation, Calendar Item No. 1: In the  
3 matter of the intent to seek Franchise and Concession  
4 Review Committee approval pursuant to Section 1-14 of  
5 the Concession Rules of the City of New York, to  
6 utilize a negotiated concession, to enter into a  
7 license agreement with Legends Boathouse, LLC. to  
8 provide for the operation, renovation and maintenance  
9 of a restaurant, snack bar and rowboat rentals at the  
10 Loeb Boathouse in Central Park in the borough of  
11 Manhattan. The license will provide for (1) ten-year  
12 term, commencing upon written Notice to Proceed.

13 MS. STODDART: We will take testimony  
14 from the public but first I'd like to ask the members  
15 of the Committee if they have any statements.

16 MS. LIU: I have a statement, yes. The  
17 Central Park Boathouse is a treasured space, not only  
18 for the Manhattan community but everybody living and  
19 visiting New York City. It's a beautiful building  
20 that has created countless memories for its visitors.

21 This administration has worked  
22 incredibly hard to ensure that new management was  
23 selected to reopen and manage the Boathouse in time  
24 for the summer season. So I'm incredibly excited for  
25 Legends to reopen the Boathouse this summer, and very

1 appreciative of the Parks team that works tirelessly  
2 to get stuff done.

3 MS. STODDART: Thank you. Would anyone  
4 else like to testify? Yes, Borough of Manhattan.

5 MS. VEST: Thank you. The Borough of  
6 Manhattan is thrilled that the -- let me begin again.  
7 The Manhattan Borough President is thrilled that the  
8 Loeb Boathouse, much like much of Manhattan, is  
9 beginning to make a post-pandemic comeback.

10 We appreciate the efforts that the  
11 Parks department, working closely with the  
12 Conservancy, made to ensure that this iconic Central  
13 Park amenity has a confident operator in place for  
14 this busy summer season. We hope that the Parks  
15 department makes similar efforts to ensure that this  
16 storied Manhattan establishment remains accessible to  
17 Central Park visitors of all income levels when  
18 approving the final menu.

19 This new concession and the Loeb  
20 Boathouse will achieve multiple goals set forth by the  
21 Conservancy, by bringing in substantial revenue to the  
22 city, providing work for 200 New Yorkers, and  
23 importantly, expanding nearby public restrooms. This  
24 being the case, I look forward to voting in support of  
25 this concession next week, on behalf of the Manhattan

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1 Borough President. Thank you.

2 MS. STODDART: Thank you. Anyone else  
3 from the committee?

4 Will the Clerk please call the next  
5 person who wishes to testify?

6 THE CLERK: Tom Olivia.

7 MR. OLIVIA: Good afternoon. My name  
8 is Thomas Olivia, and I'm here on behalf of the Hotel  
9 Trades Council. We represent almost 40,000 workers in  
10 New York. I've been a representative from the Hotel  
11 Trades Council for the workers of the Boathouse for  
12 eight years now.

13 The Boathouse has been a longstanding  
14 institution in New York City, and we're honored to be  
15 here today to express our support for this project.  
16 Since 2011, we've represented nearly 130 workers at  
17 the Boathouse: servers, cooks, bartenders, and many  
18 others. The members we represented had great jobs and  
19 outstanding benefits that allowed them to take care of  
20 their families and live in this city with dignity.

21 However, after it closed, the workers  
22 have lost their jobs, and struggled to find employment  
23 that has created similar excellent healthcare  
24 coverage. We were thrilled when Mayor Adams announced  
25 the reopening of the Boathouse. Legends Hospitality

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1 has agreed not just to rehire these workers, but to  
2 also assume the existing union contract.

3 With the reopening of the Boathouse,  
4 hundreds of our members can finally get back to work,  
5 and continue supporting themselves and their families.  
6 We want to thank everyone here today for hearing our  
7 testimony, and hope to see this project advance  
8 quickly. Thank you very much.

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

12 THE CLERK: We have now heard all  
13 testimony on this calendar item.

14 MS. STODDART: Thank you. Will the  
15 Clerk please call the next calendar item?

16 THE CLERK: New York City Department of  
17 Small Business Services, Calendar Item No. 2: In the  
18 matter of the intent to award as a concession an  
19 agreement with First Flight Heliports, LLC doing  
20 business as Saker Aviation Services, to provide for  
21 the operation of the Downtown Manhattan Heliport in  
22 the borough of Manhattan.

23 The license will provide for (1) five-  
24 year initial term, commencing upon written Notice to  
25 Proceed, which may be renewed for (1) additional five-

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1 year term, exercisable at the sole discretion of EDC  
2 and SBS.

3 Please be advised that this item will  
4 be held over to a subsequent FCRC Public Hearing.

5 MS. STODDART: Thank you.

6 Before we conclude, I want to ask if  
7 any of the agencies presenting calendar items today  
8 have any statements for the record prior to the close  
9 of the hearing?

10 MR. CERRON: Sure, just briefly. Parks  
11 is excited to select Legends as its new operator for  
12 the iconic Loeb Boathouse. Legends specializes in  
13 delivering world-class experiences for its patrons  
14 throughout the city, country, and internationally.  
15 They are strong, operating -- improvements to bring  
16 the Boathouse back to its former glory. As a crucial  
17 amenity for all of Central Park and its visitors,  
18 we're looking forward to reopening this summer, and  
19 also to ensuring that it's accessible and affordable  
20 for all visitors.

21 MS. STODDART: Thank you. If no one  
22 else wishes to speak on Calendar Item No. 1, that  
23 concludes today's hearing. We ask that the Reporter  
24 make the entire Public Hearing Agenda, which was made  
25 publicly available and distributed at this hearing,

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1 part of the final record of the proceeding. The  
2 hearing is now closed. Thank you.

3 THE REPORTER: Off the record?

4 MS. STODDART: Yes.

5 THE REPORTER: Off the record, 2:53  
6 p.m.

7 (Whereupon, the meeting concluded at  
8 2:53 p.m.)

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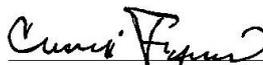
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1 CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSITION OFFICER

2 I, CHANYRI FIGUEROA MONSANTO, the officer  
3 before whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do  
4 hereby certify that any witness(es) in the foregoing  
5 proceedings, prior to testifying, were duly sworn;  
6 that the proceedings were recorded by me and  
7 thereafter reduced to typewriting by a qualified  
8 transcriptionist; that said digital audio recording of  
9 said proceedings are a true and accurate record to the  
10 best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am  
11 neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any  
12 of the parties to the action in which this was taken;  
13 and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of  
14 any counsel or attorney employed by the parties  
15 hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the  
16 outcome of this action.

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CHANYRI FIGUEROA MONSANTO

19  
20 CHANYRI FIGUEROA MONSANTO  
21 Notary Public in and for the  
22 State of New York  
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, DANIEL WEINER, do hereby certify that  
this transcript was prepared from the digital audio  
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transcript is a true and accurate record of the  
proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skills, and  
ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to,  
nor employed by any of the parties to the action in  
which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a  
relative or employee of any counsel or attorney  
employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or  
otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

DANIEL WEINER