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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX
211 EAST 43RD STREET, SUITE 1404
NEW YORK, NY 10017

VIA E-MAIL

April 20, 2022

Andrew Kimball
President & CEO
New York City Economic Development Corporation
One Liberty Plaza
New York NY, 10006

Supporting repurposing the parking area adjacent to Stuyvesant Cove Park into public space

At the April 13, 2022 Full Board meeting of Manhattan Community Board Six, the Board adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, since 2018, Manhattan Community Board Six (CB6) has been engaged with city agencies in the revised East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR) Project. During this process CB6 has provided feedback regarding a host of issues regarding design, construction, and short-term remediation to limit the effects of park closures;

WHEREAS, in 2019, CB6 voted on a resolution regarding the ULURP for the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project and expressed a series of concerns and recommendations that included a list of short-term remediations to reduce the impact of park closures due to construction;

WHEREAS, one recommendation included “activating the parking area under the FDR from East 18th Street to East 23rd Street in ways similar to the current setup at Two Bridges,” but this area was used instead for construction staging and parking for the construction team;

WHEREAS, final renderings of the completed project depict the flood wall and associated improvements to Stuyvesant Cove Park with improved access to 20th Street and Avenue C. The renderings also show that most of the space under the FDR will return as a paid parking lot, despite being closed to the general public for up to five years (for ESCR construction and planned L Train mitigation efforts before that);

WHEREAS, per an agreement with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), Solar One receives a portion of income from the parking

income from this area and parking deck to the north. This operating subsidy is roughly \$120,000 a year and helps fund half the park's maintenance costs. This agreement is renewed roughly every five years between NYCEDC and Solar One;

WHEREAS, despite this subsidy, the post-construction renderings recreate the former space as it was before ESCR construction. A return to a public parking lot after a closure of many years would not reflect the highest and best use for the area;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Manhattan Community Board Six supports the reimagination of the space under the FDR immediately adjacent to Stuyvesant Cove Park for public use. A new plan should be commissioned to reimagine the space with input from local community groups and Solar One;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the planning process include both immediate activation strategies and long-term, holistic planning that incorporates improved waterfront access along the FDR up to Waterside Pier;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NYCEDC should continue its subsidy agreement with Solar One. The revised agreement should identify sources outside of the adjacent parking area. Consideration should be given for increased funding through other NYCEDC and city sources.

VOTE: 34 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstention 1 Not Entitled

Best regards,



Jesús Pérez
District Manager

Cc: Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Keith Powers, Council Member
Hon. Harvey Epstein, Assembly Member
Hon. Brad Hoylman, State Senator
Stephen Levin, CEO, Solar One
Sandy McKee, Chair, CB6 Land Use & Waterfront Committee