



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Media Contact:**

Steve Chesler, Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park  
(917) 804-1313  
[info@bushwickinletpark.org](mailto:info@bushwickinletpark.org)

## **Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park Applauds Mayor de Blasio's Commitment to Open Space in Greenpoint and Williamsburg**

**Brooklyn, New York – October 20, 2017**– On Wednesday evening, Councilmember Stephen Levin and Mayor Bill de Blasio held a town hall for Council District 33, co-sponsored by Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park. Mayor de Blasio announced a number of important initiatives for Bushwick Inlet Park:

- \$9.8 million will be allocated to environmental remediation of the Motiva site. The Motiva site is a 3.5-acre strip of land that surrounds Bushwick Inlet itself. FBIP has been advocating for the Parks Department to make this area accessible to the public, and its remediation is the first step towards achieving that goal
- Another \$7.7 million will be allocated for the construction of permanent park space at 50 Kent Avenue. 50 Kent is a 1.6-acre former manufactured gas plant site located between North 10th and North 11th Streets that National Grid completed remediation at earlier this year.
- Additional capital funding toward the full build out of Bushwick Inlet Park will be included in the City's FY19 capital budget, scheduled to be released in January. This funding will be part of a multi-year capital plan leading to the full remediation and buildout of Bushwick Inlet Park.

The commitments announced by Mayor de Blasio at Wednesday's Town Hall are in addition to \$22 million of capital funds already allocated towards environmental testing and demolition at the former Bayside Fuel Oil site at the north end of Bushwick Inlet Park.

Bushwick Inlet Park is a 27-acre public park located on the East River waterfront, at the juncture of Greenpoint and Williamsburg. The park was a commitment made by the City of New York as part of the 2005 Greenpoint-Williamsburg Waterfront Rezoning, as mitigation for the tens of thousands of new residents that were anticipated as part of that rezoning. Historically, Greenpoint and Williamsburg have been among the most parks-starved communities in New York City.

The first phase of Bushwick Inlet Park, a 6.8-acre site between North 9th and North 10th Street, opened in 2010. However, the remaining 20 acres of parkland remain to be constructed. However, the future of the full Park was not secured until late last year, when Mayor de Blasio announced the acquisition of the former CitiStorage site at the center of the proposed park. Following a 12-year holdout and fears that the property would be turned over for high-rise development, the Mayor stepped in and affirmed the City's promise to the residents of Greenpoint and Williamsburg, acquiring the 7-acre CitiStorage site for \$160 million.

Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park applauds Mayor de Blasio for his continued commitment to the residents of Greenpoint and Williamsburg. Special thanks are also due to Councilmember Stephen Levin for his dogged pursuit of this Park.

In addition to the announcement regarding Bushwick Inlet Park, Mayor de Blasio also announced that the baseball fields at McCarren will get a \$6 million rehab. These fields have not been upgraded in over 20 years, and are in sore need of attention. The ballfield work is in addition to the rehab of the soccer field and track at McCarren Park, already slated for next spring.

Following questioning by FBIP Steering Committee member Ward Dennis, Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver provided additional details on the Bushwick Inlet Park buildout. Work on the Motiva and 50 Kent sites should begin by 2019 and will be completed by 2021 or 2022. In response to this schedule, Mayor de Blasio asked Commissioner Silver to make the process faster.

FBIP looks forward to celebrating the opening of the next phases of Bushwick Inlet Park with Mayor de Blasio, Commissioner Silver, Councilman Levin and the people of Greenpoint and Williamsburg.

For additional information about Bushwick Inlet Park and Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park, please visit [www.bushwickenletpark.org](http://www.bushwickenletpark.org).

###