



COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 1

435 GRAHAM AVENUE – BROOKLYN, NY 11211

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HON. ERIC L. ADAMS
BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT



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DISTRICT MANAGER

HON. STEPHEN T. LEVIN
COUNCILMEMBER, 33rd CD

HON. ANTONIO REYNOSO
COUNCILMEMBER, 34th CD

November 13, 2019

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

RE: 40 Quay Street
Brooklyn, NY

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On May 9, 2019, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) proposed the sale and/or lease of its mobile truck washing facility property at 40 Quay Street in Greenpoint for residential development.

40 Quay Street is publicly-owned land along the narrow shore of Bushwick Inlet and directly fronting Bushwick Inlet Park, a 27-acre New York City park that is currently in phased construction.

The MTA faces chronic funding shortfalls, however, the one-time injection of cash that a sale or lease of this property would bring is not the way to solve the MTA’s systemic funding problems. Sale or lease of this property is short-sighted and not in the best interests of our constituents in Greenpoint, Williamsburg and beyond.

In order to give the community and the governing officials time to explore alternatives uses of this public amenity, it is critical that the MTA withdraws or suspends the RFP for this parcel and that the property at 40 Quay Street ultimately be set aside for use as public open space.

Please be advised that at the regular board meeting of Community Board No. 1 held on November 12, 2019 at 211 Ainslie Street, the members voted unanimously to support the

following resolution regarding the sale of MTA/40 Quay Street mobile truck washing facility site:

- **WHEREAS** this sale or lease is short-sighted and not in the best interests of our constituents in Greenpoint, Williamsburg and beyond, and we respectfully ask that you withdraw or suspend the RFP for this parcel in order to create, instead, a significant, permanent and desperately needed public open space,
- **WHEREAS** 40 Quay Street is publicly-owned property, and as such should be used to the greatest possible benefit of the residents of the state. At this location, **the greatest public benefit is clearly served by a park,**
- **WHEREAS** 40 Quay Street – even in its current state, and certainly when it is redeveloped for high-rise residential – **inappropriately walls off the residents of Greenpoint from Bushwick Inlet Park,**
- **WHEREAS** 40 Quay Street, in connection with the adjacent Monitor Museum site and Bushwick Inlet Park, should be the **gateway from Greenpoint to the public waterfront,**
- **WHEREAS** 40 Quay Street sits adjacent to the narrowest part of Bushwick Inlet Park (less than 50’ wide). Using 40 Quay Street for public open space would **significantly enhance the quality of Bushwick Inlet Park and access to the Bushwick Inlet itself,**
- **WHEREAS** 40 Quay Street sits on landfill in a flood zone; as parkland, this property could be **a visionary part of a robust, sustainable and resilient Brooklyn waterfront.** A new development on the site would only exacerbate flooding for future generations,
- **WHEREAS** North Brooklyn is severely lacking in public open space especially in the face of massive ongoing residential development in the neighborhood, creating open green space with this land adjacent to the in-development Bushwick Inlet Park will work to ease this burden and help contribute to the wellbeing of its residents,
- **WHEREAS** East River State Park (only a few blocks south of 40 Quay Street) is a model for park development on the waterfront that the State of New York can be proud of, and is proof that New York State Parks’ presence in the neighborhood is an achievable and laudable goal,

NOW THEREFORE, it is RESOLVED that:

Community Board #1 calls on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to withdraw or suspend the RFP for this parcel of land at 40 Quay Street.

Community Board #1 further calls on the MTA to engage with the community in order to come to an informed decision about how to develop this publicly-owned amenity, and together decide what would be the best public benefit to serve the people.

Community Board #1 supports the efforts of the Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park and the community to halt the efforts of the MTA to develop 40 Quay into high rise development, and instead, believes that the parcel should be used for public open space.

The unanimous vote of the Community Board members was as follows:

32 "YES"; 0 "NO"; 0 "ABSTENTIONS"; 0 "RECUSALS".

Sincerely,



Dealice Fuller
Chairperson

DF/PC/mbw

Attachment

cc: Senator Charles Schumer
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney
Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez
State Senator Brian Kavanagh
State Senator Julia Salazar
Assemblyman Joseph Lentol
Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams
Councilmember Steven Levin
Chairman Patrick J. Foye, CEO/MTA



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November 12, 2019

PARKS & WATERFRONT COMMITTEE REPORT

TO: Chairperson Dealice Fuller
and CB#1 Board Members

FROM: Philip Caponegro, Committee Chair
Trina McKeever, Co-Chair

RE: Committee Meeting held on October 30, 2019

The Parks & Waterfront Committee held a meeting on October 30, 2019, at 6:30 PM, in the CB#1's District Office, 435 Graham Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211.

ATTENDANCE: Present - Caponegro (Chair); McKeever (Co-Chair); Chesler; Cianciotta.
Absent – Cohen; Dybanowski; Elkins; Odomirok; Peterson. [A quorum was not present]

1.) Letter of Support for the Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park.

The Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park calls upon the Metropolitan Transport Authority to withdraw its RFP for the redevelopment of 40 Quay Street in Greenpoint & work with the Greenpoint & Williamsburg community to transform this waterfront site into a resilient public space.

2.) Letter of Support to upgrade the McCarren Park Handball Courts.

The Community is asking our elected officials and the NYC Parks Department for funding to replace the McCarren Park Handball Courts with a new updated facility.

PC/mbw