



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## “THE MTA CONTINUES TO POSE AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT TO BUSHWICK INLET PARK.

### FRIENDS OF BUSHWICK INLET PARK SAY NO TO MTA DEVELOPMENT ON THE INLET”

**Brooklyn, New York – January 6, 2020** – Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park, a community-based advocacy organization dedicated to the development, stewardship, and programming of a resilient, world-class park on the North Brooklyn waterfront calls on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to withdraw its RFP for the redevelopment of 40 Quay Street in Greenpoint and to work with the Greenpoint and Williamsburg community to transform this waterfront site into a resilient public space.

**PEOPLE’S LAND NOT FUNDING STREAM FOR MTA-** 40 Quay Street is publicly-owned land fronting onto Bushwick Inlet and Bushwick Inlet Park, a 27-acre city park that is currently under development. The property has been used by the MTA for many years as a storage facility for mobile wash trucks. This past summer, the MTA released an RFP seeking proposals to redevelop the site for residential use. Understanding that the MTA faces critical funding shortfalls, FBIP believes that ***the one-time injection of cash that a sale of 40 Quay Street would bring is not the way to solve the MTA’s systemic funding problems.***

Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park, with the support of local elected officials, believes that parks and open space is a far better and far more sustainable use for the property, noting that:

- 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.**
- 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.**



- 40 Quay Street, in connection with the adjacent Monitor Museum site, should be the **gateway from Greenpoint to the public waterfront.**
- 40 Quay Street sits adjacent to the narrowest part of Bushwick Inlet Park (less than 50' wide). Expanding the public open space at this particular location would **significantly enhance the quality of Bushwick Inlet Park.**
- 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.

Steve Chesler, co-chair of Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park, states: “40 Quay Street should be a resilient addition to the North Brooklyn waterfront, supplementing existing State and City parks. Selling off this piece of public land to the highest bidder is irresponsible and short-sighted. This RFP should be withdrawn and the MTA and Governor Cuomo should rethink their priorities for the Greenpoint waterfront.”

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470 Words