

April 25, 2017

Re: Comments on the Draft Generic EIS for Pier 5 Parkland: Lower Concourse North, CEQR16DME012X, ULURP 170311ZMX, N170312ZRX, 170314PPX, 170315ZSX

Hon. Kitty Saunders
Chair of Community Board 4 and Members of Community Board 4
Bx04@cb.nyc.gov

Dear Community Board Chair and Board:

Please accept these comments in response to the above stated project. I find these documents to be inadequate as it does not review impacts that have irreversible and irretrievable effects.

PARKLAND. Taking parkland for non-park purpose requires alienating it through the New York State Legislature. The court cases clearly describe the need for this and the State has a process that should be followed. NYS Highest Court stated, in part, that the "use for other than park purposes, either for a period of years or permanently, requires the direct and specific approval of the State Legislature, plainly conferred;" where a municipality holds title to land for public use "the power to regulate those uses (is) vested solely in the Legislature." In the glossary of the City Planning Commission is found this definition: "A public park is any publicly owned park, playground, beach, parkway, or roadway within the jurisdiction and control of the New York City Commissioner of Parks and Recreation." Many documents show that Pier 5 is within the jurisdiction of the Parks Commissioner.

STORMWATER. It is obvious that the sidewalk along the west side of Exterior Street, particularly in front of Pier 5, is a Public Safety issue. Stormwater pollution from both sides of the overhead highway discharges garbage, sludge, degraded asphalt, oil, cigarettes, etc. onto the sidewalk entrance of Pier 5 and Mill Pond Park. Moreover, the drainage from Mill Pond Park, itself, discharges directly into the Harlem River without any treatment. Any discharge should be treated, including the first flush. This needs to be completed before the developer starts construction.

SEWERS. The Harlem River is among one of the last to be studied by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. The Response to Comments stated the applicant has no plans to consider the MS4 for this project. Inadequate sewers, drainage, and stormwater infrastructure exist at the project site; and it is not appropriate to add to the Combined Sewer Overflow System as the impact is too great.

SUBWAYS. Right now, more subway trains need to be added to an already overcrowded mass transit system. No more people can fit in the 149th Street Station and there is no guarantee MTA will do anything about it.

TRAFFIC. It is time for EDC to enact the changes that need to be made to create a safe pedestrian experience from the neighborhood at Jerome Avenue and Highbridge Hill to the waterfront parkland. It is also confusing and not safe to travel from the Metro North pedestrian bridge to get from 161st Street and River Avenue to Mill Pond Park. A Parking exemption is a concern in the area. One problem is for the residents, but it is also for visitors.

Please vote against using parkland for housing and economic development. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name
Address/email