



**Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation**

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September 11, 2007

Hon. Diana Taylor
Chair, Hudson River Park Trust Board of Directors
Pier 40, 2nd floor
West Street at West Houston Street
New York, NY 10014

Dear Chair Taylor,

On behalf of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, I write to congratulate you on your appointment as Chair of the Hudson River Park Trust, and to wish you well in your considerable new duties. As you know, in its relatively short existence the Hudson River Park has taken on an incredibly important role for park-starved Westsiders, and indeed for all New Yorkers, and I am sure you appreciate the impact this precious resource has upon the lives of so many people.

As the new Chair of the Hudson River Park Board, I know that one of the most important decisions before you regards the proposed development of Pier 40, including the "Performing Arts Center" (PAC) proposal by The Related Companies. While I have communicated with you in the past as a member of the Hudson River Park Board regarding the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation's very serious concerns about the Related proposal, I would like to strongly restate our objections to you, especially in light of the recent resounding rejection of this proposal by the Pier 40 Working Group.

As previously stated, we believe that the Related plan, dubbed by many "Vegas-on-the-Hudson," would be completely inappropriate for this pier, for the park, and for the adjacent neighborhoods which would be heavily impacted by the project. We feel very strongly that the size, scale, type of uses involved, and their compatibility with the surrounding park and neighborhood, should be paramount considerations in evaluating these proposals, and the Related Companies proposal, which would require approval not only by the Trust but zoning changes approved by the City Planning Commission and the City Council, fails on all these accounts. Like the Pier 40 Working Group, we would strongly urge the Trust to forgo this proposal and look at other options for restoring this pier in a manner which is consistent with the desires of the surrounding communities for appropriately developed park space, limited additional vehicular traffic, and maintaining a scale and character in keeping with the adjacent neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman
Executive Director

Cc: Governor Eliot Spitzer
Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer
City Council Speaker Christine Quinn
Hudson River Park Trust President Connie Fishman
Daniel Doctoroff, Vice-Chair, Hudson River Park Trust
Hudson River Park Trust Board
City Planning Commission Chair Amanda Burden
Congressman Jerrold Nadler
State Senator Tom Duane
State Senator Martin Connor
Assemblymember Deborah Glick
City Council Member Alan Gerson
City Council Land Use Committee Chair Melinda Katz
City Council Zoning Subcommittee Chair Tony Avella
Hudson River Park Trust Advisory Board
Pier 40 Working Group
Community Board #2, Manhattan
Community Board #1, Manhattan
Friends of Hudson River Park
Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance
Greenwich Village Community Task Force
Federation to Preserve the Greenwich Village Waterfront and Great Port
West Village Committee
SoHo Alliance
Friends of Hudson Square
SoHo Arts Council
Tribeca Community Association
Canal West Coalition
West Village Houses
Pier Park and Playground Association
Thompson Sullivan Coalition
Greenwich Village Block Associations
Charlton Street Block Association
Vandam Street Block Association
West Houston Street Block Association
Bedford Downing Block Association
Morton Street Block Association
Bedford Barrow Commerce Block Association
Board, One Morton Square