



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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DELORES RUBIN
Chair

Jesse R. Bodine
District Manager

February 11, 2016

Alan Steel, CEO
Jacob K. Javits Convention Center
655 West 34th Street
New York, NY 10001

Re: Jacob K. Javits Convention Center Expansion

Dear Mr. Steel:

Manhattan Community Board 4 was pleased to learn from the press event held by NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo and subsequent press releases and news reports of the proposed Jacob K. Javits Convention Center (Javits) Expansion to commence later this year.

We also want to thank you for coming to present the proposal to the community as well as taking questions and commentary. We look forward to many more such discussions. While the Community Board's role is clearly advisory, it should also remain participatory.

New areas by the expansion include a 60,000 square foot ballroom, the largest in the Northeast according to the Governor's office, and a five-fold increase in meeting room space.

Originally designed by James Ingo Freed of Pei Cobb Freed & Partners in 1986, the structure has seen several structural iterations and add-ons, including in 2014. As a result, the Manhattan site gained a new façade and flooring; mechanical, technology and sustainability systems; and a 6.75-acre green roof—the second largest in the country, according to the announcement. As it stands now, the center has a LEED Silver certification.

Sustainable energy is also a focus in this project, which the state hopes will acquire a LEED Platinum certification. A 34,000-square-foot solar energy array will be installed on the roof, set to be the largest of its kind on a public building in New York. Expanding on its green space, the building will incorporate a 22,000-square-foot green roof terrace capable of holding up to 2,500 guests, providing views to the Hudson River.

A four-level, 480,000-square-foot truck garage capable of housing hundreds of tractor-trailers at one time will be built to alleviate potential traffic and ensure pedestrian safety. This garage will take the place of what is currently Javits North, a temporary structure on 40th Street.

Although the New York convention center is not the biggest (Chicago's McCormick Place holds that title), it is the busiest. According to the state's proposal site, Javits hosted 177 events and more than 2 million visitors in 2014. This created 175,000 jobs and generated \$1.8 billion in local business by those staying in the area, which reportedly garnered an estimated 478,000 hotel stays. The expansion is expected to create 4,000 full-time jobs, 2,000 part-time jobs, and 3,100 construction jobs.

According to the announcement, the financing will be done by the Javits Center within its existing resources. As a result, the community expects the marshalling yards on 33rd Street and the site on east side of 11th Avenue between 35th and 36th Streets will be leased out or sold. The community board wants it understood that any outreach and discussion related to the expansion should also and include any plans for these two sites.

Sincerely,



Delores Rubin
MCB4 Chair



Jean Daniel Noland, Chair
Clinton Hell's Kitchen Land Use
and Zoning Committee

Cc: Hon. Brad Hoylman, State Senate
Hon. Richard Gottfried, State Assembly
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Corey Johnson, City Council