



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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CHRISTINE BERTHET
Chair

JESSE BODINE
District Manager

February 13, 2015

Ms. Madelyn Wils
President and Chief Executive Officer
Hudson River Park Trust
Pier 40, 2nd Floor
353 West Street
New York, NY 10014

Re: Missing Dock at Pier 96

Dear Ms. Madelyn Wils:

As you are aware the Manhattan Community Boathouse's floating dock at Pier 96 was stolen in October. Without any leads in the investigation the Manhattan Community Boathouse decided to begin a fundraising campaign to cover the cost of a new dock. The funds needed for a replacement dock total \$30,000. Manhattan Community Board 4 is concerned Manhattan Community Boathouse will not be able to operate if they cannot come up with the funds by the end of February. MCB4 is reaching out to Hudson River Park Trust to inquire as to what assistance can be offered to Manhattan Community Boathouse.

The Manhattan Community Boathouse is a non-profit organization offering free kayaking. During the 2014 season, Manhattan Community Boathouse helped over 20,000 people enjoy free kayaking on the Hudson River. This wonderful volunteer run program in our district is valuable to residents and visitors alike. Free access to the Hudson River is a rare and precious amenity in Hudson River Park and MCB4 would like this service to continue.

While Manhattan Community Board 4 is cognizant of the financial shortfalls of the Hudson River Park Trust, we would hope that every effort is being made to keep Manhattan Community Boathouse afloat at Pier 96. Manhattan Community Boathouse was chosen for Pier 96 because they satisfied the stated goals of the Request For Proposals for the four Boathouses in Hudson River Park, which were:

- Provide the public with consistent, safe and affordable access to the Hudson River;
- Satisfy the boating interests of a wide range of users and encourage safe boating on the Hudson River by potential new users through instructional programs;
- Ensure that safe and reliable equipment and facilities are provided to adequately support the boating programs at each Facility; and
- Ensure that the Facility structures are maintained in good condition under the operating standards established by the Trust; and

- Provide a balance of low-cost or no-cost access to Permittees operating without profit, as well as access by private, for-profit Permittees who can meet public demand as well as provide financial support for Park operations.

The unfortunate and unprecedented incident of theft from a HRPT Pier is disturbing in and of itself, but the potential loss of an activity on a completed pier in our unfinished part of the park would be quite a blow for MCB4 residents, visitors and all users of the Park. The presence of free kayaking at Pier 96 enlivens the area.

MCB4 has been making fellow residents aware of the plight of Manhattan Community Boathouse and those that can have made contributions towards the replacement of the dock. MCB4 is unaware of how HRPT is helping. Some suggestions on how HRPT can assist the Manhattan Community Boathouse continue their operations this upcoming season include:

- Monetary donation
- Reduction of Pier 96 rent for a finite period
- Solicitation of funds on behalf of Manhattan Community Boathouse from existing HRPT benefactors
- Advertise the fundraising effort on the HRPT website or through mailers and publications

Any or all of the above suggestions may ensure MCB4 continues without interruption to be home to a well-received and thoroughly enjoyable amenity of Hudson River Park. Free kayaking offered by volunteers speaks to the spirit of the Park and it is our hope HRPT does all within its power to preserve the operation of the Manhattan Community Boathouse.

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet
Chair



Maarten de Kadt Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks &
Environment Committee



Delores Rubin Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks &
Environment Committee

cc: Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
Richard Gottfried, NY State Assemblymember
Linda B. Rosenthal, NY State Assemblymember
Jerrold Nadler, Congressmember
Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Corey Johnson, NYC Councilmember
Kaitlin Petersen, Manhattan Community Boathouse