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THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

STEPHEN T. LEVIN

COUNCIL MEMBER, 33RD DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

CHAIR
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANNING
DISPOSITIONS AND CONCESSIONS

COMMITTEES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
GENERAL WELFARE
LAND USE
LOWER MANHATTAN REDEVELOPMENT

Statement in Support of Public Siting Application for the Gowanus CSO Head-End Facility

I am pleased to express my support for the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) application to site the Gowanus CSO Head End Facility at 234 Butler Street, 242 and 270 Nevins St. The Head End Facility will dramatically reduce combined sewer overflows into the Gowanus Canal and is a necessary and required aspect of the remediation mandated by the federal Superfund program. Throughout the public process for this application, neighbors and stakeholders have made it clear that siting this important facility at this location is far preferable to the alternative site located across the street at Thomas Greene Park.

However, many legitimate concerns have been raised about the construction impacts on the surrounding community, and about transparency and inclusiveness in the construction and design process. At my urging, DEP has provided a letter for the public record that I believe addresses many of these concerns.

DEP has agreed to work with my office and other stakeholders to form a Community Advisory Group that will meet at least quarterly to provide updates on design and construction and a forum for addressing community concerns and gathering input. DEP will share construction mitigation plans with the community in advance and make all reasonable efforts to exceed industry standards and minimize impacts on adjacent residential, business, and park users. Once construction begins, there will be a dedicated community liaison in place to address all concerns regarding construction impacts. There will also be an opportunity for the community to provide input on the final design of the facility, including the publicly accessible open space. DEP is also committing to working transparently with the community to incorporate preservation of key historic architectural elements of 234 Butler Street into the design, and include opportunities for incorporating the work of local artists and arts organizations. All community outreach will incorporate and prioritize the involvement of local NYCHA residents.

Regarding the businesses currently present on the site, an agreement between Eastern Effects and EDC to relocate to city-owned space is nearing completion. For the other affected businesses, SBS and EDC will coordinate meetings to help connect them to all available City assistance, including access to capital and potential leasing opportunities in city-owned space.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Gowanus community to ensure that construction and design of this critical project is transparent, inclusive, minimizes all potential negative impacts, and sets a new standard for 21st century infrastructure in Brooklyn.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stephen T. Levin'.

Stephen T. Levin
NYC Council Member, 33rd District



Vincent Saplenza, P.E.
Acting Commissioner

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March 27, 2018

Honorable Stephen Levin
New York City Council, 33rd District
410 Atlantic Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11217

Dear Council Member Levin:

It was a pleasure to present to you and the Land Use Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting, and Maritime Uses on March 12th. Thank you for your support for this important project. We wanted to take the opportunity to follow up on the items raised in our hearing, the public testimony and your subsequent requests.

DEP is happy to work with Community Board 6 and local elected officials on an outreach strategy to ensure broad community participation in a public meeting to discuss the design for the project. We know that this project will have a presence in this community, and we are committed to delivering a thoughtful and attractive architectural design that respects the character and feel of the neighborhood and a much-needed publicly accessible open space.

We are proud to have put together a strong design team that not only has the engineering expertise required for such a complex project but also skilled architects and landscape designers. Our design team has made extensive study of the 234 Butler Street building and, given its current condition and the extensive excavation required by the project, it is not feasible to retain them in place. However, we will continue to coordinate with the project stakeholders on how key architectural elements can be salvaged and how the history of the site can be reflected in the final project. We are eager to hear the community's views on our design approach and on how we can best meet the needs of this open space-starved area. We look forward to working with your office to schedule specific workshops.

Building on our working relationship with the Parks Department, which we anticipate will be our partner in operating and maintaining the publicly accessible open space atop the CSO tanks, we have had preliminary discussions with the Art in the Park Program about incorporating the site into its temporary art program. This approach could provide a dynamic, rotating public art display that engages the many artists and arts organizations in Gowanus. With your help, we look forward to further exploring this type of programming for the project.

We understand the desire to provide a continuous waterfront esplanade, and we hope that our project will set the tone for future waterfront development. There are real challenges in providing access through the operational pump

station facility due to the location of major infrastructure. These obstacles were discussed thoroughly during the NYC Department of City Planning's PLACES Neighborhood Study. However, we will continue to work with our agency partners to explore creative solutions, taking into account current and future infrastructure needs, to provide as much access as possible around the canal.

With regard to construction, DEP will abide by best practices and make all reasonable efforts to exceed industry standards and minimize impacts on residential, business, and park users. We are beginning to develop a construction mitigation plan in conjunction with the design of the most intensive period of construction, and this can and will be shared with the public. In addition, recent legislation that we collaborated on with the Council will ensure easier inspections of noise complaints. Residents will not need to be inconvenienced with an inspector coming into their home, because noise samples can be taken from outside on the street. These new procedures will ensure residents have a more efficient process when making complaints through 311. DEP will also conduct an analysis of the possibility of using barge transportation to remove excavation and construction materials. In recent discussions, the EPA has been open to this approach, but it would require the in-canal work to be advanced by the time our work is underway. We hope our study will better inform the feasibility of this request.

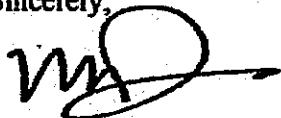
DEP understands the importance of keeping the lines of communication with the community open on complex project like this one, and will work with Council Member Levin and other elected officials and local stakeholders to establish a community advisory group with public meetings held quarterly at minimum, beginning in Fall 2018, to ensure a transparent and inclusive development process. DEP will include the hiring of a community liaison in the construction management contract in order to field all community concerns regarding construction. All outreach will incorporate and prioritize our NYCHA neighbors and will provide clarity on the project and its timeline, and DEP will be accessible for any questions or concerns. This project is very complicated and will take time to design and construct, and it will no doubt at times inconvenience the community. We will make every effort to educate, inform and solve problems throughout the process.

We continue to work with our partners at the Economic Development Corporation and Small Business Services to aide local businesses impacted by our project. EDC has been having productive negotiations with Eastern Effects to relocate current operations and accommodate adjacent space at a city-owned space. They are very close to finalizing an offer. SBS will coordinate with the City's network of Industrial Business Service Providers to assist businesses in accessing all potentially available incentives, legal services and business services, including access to capital. EDC will also coordinate a meeting with the affected businesses to discuss any applicable business loans, grants, or benefits, and potential leasing opportunities in City-managed space. Additionally SBS will host a commercial lease clinic for tenants currently in the building.

We greatly appreciate your efforts to put this project in context for the Council and the public. It is an enormous and complex undertaking. Though we know your question about how many "cafeteriums" would fit into this tank was somewhat tongue-in-cheek, it is a helpful visual to understand the size of the tanks. So we did the math, and our 1,069,519 cubic-foot tank could hold over 16 "cafeteriums!"

As always, we stand ready to work with your office on any and all issues that arise as a result of our efforts. Please don't hesitate to reach out at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MD' with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Michael DeLoach
Deputy Commissioner for Public Affairs & Communications