

Alida Camp
Chair

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District Manager



The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan

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May 16, 2019

James Patchett
President and CEO
New York City Economic Development Corporation
110 William Street
New York, NY 10038

RE: Presentation from the Durst Organization on a Proposal to Connect the Astoria Ferry Line in Queens to the 90th Street Ferry Terminal

Dear President Patchett:

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on May 15, 2019, the board voted to **approve** the application in accordance with the following resolution by a vote of 38 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, and 0 not voting for cause:

WHEREAS, the Durst Organization has proposed that NYC Ferry's Astoria Route of NYC Ferry be extended to terminate at East 90th Street;

WHEREAS, the East 90th Street Ferry Landing and Astoria Ferry Landing are separated by about ½ mile by water; and

WHEREAS, Roosevelt Island's ferry stop is served by the Astoria Route, which requires passengers traveling between Roosevelt Island and East 90th Street by ferry to transfer between routes at East 34th Street; and

WHEREAS, extending the Astoria Ferry route to East 90th Street would reduce the travel time between East 90th Street and Roosevelt Island via ferry from a minimum of 33 minutes to about 18 minutes and result in a 5 minute trip between Astoria and the Upper East Side; and

WHEREAS, extending the Astoria Ferry route to East 90th Street would support economic and recreational activities on both sides of the East River; and

WHEREAS, there is a history of a lack of capacity on some ferry trips operating out of Astoria and East 90th Street, which have resulted in passengers being unable to board vessels that are full;

WHEREAS, the Durst Organization, as developer of Halletts Point, will be a direct beneficiary of a ferry connection between Astoria and East 90th Street; and

WHEREAS, NYC Ferry is subsidized by the taxpayers of New York City to provide fare parity between NYC Ferry and NYC Transit; and

WHEREAS, NYC Ferry is a form of public transportation, and should not add service solely due to a request by a company or private entity that would directly benefit from that service without something in return being provided to support the public good;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan supports an extension of the Astoria Ferry route to terminate at East 90th Street, thereby providing a one-seat ferry ride between East 90th Street and Roosevelt Island; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan strongly urges NYCEDC to require the Durst Organization to provide monetary contributions to support upgrades to ferry infrastructure at the East 90th Street landing in anticipation of increased passenger activity and capacity requirements resulting from the expanded ferry service;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan strongly urges NYCEDC to require the Durst Organization to fully subsidize NYC ferry trips for NYCHA residents of the Stanley Isaacs Houses, Holmes Towers and Astoria Houses.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,



Alida Camp
Chair



M. Barry Schneider and Tricia Shimamura
Co-Chairs, Parks and Waterfront Committee



Charles Warren and Craig Lader
Co-Chairs, Transportation Committee

- cc: Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District