

THE CITY OF NEW YORK COMMUNITY BOARD SIX

Marty Markowitz
Borough President

Richard S. Bashner
Chairperson

Craig Hammerman
District Manager

March 10, 2009

David Paterson
Governor
The Executive Chamber
Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

I am writing to advise you that at its December 10, 2008 general meeting, Brooklyn Community Board 6 (CB6) adopted several resolutions related to Governors Island. While Governors Island is not in our district, it is a mere 400 yards from our shore. We are the closest Community District in New York City and are excited by its potential as New York Harbor's newest recreational and educational destination. We have maintained an active interest in the planning and development of the island. Enclosed please find a copy of our December 3, 2003 letter outlining our prior positions taken.

Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation (GIPEC) has regularly been before us since then, most recently at a joint committee meeting we held on December 1, 2008. Several recommendations were made by our committees at that meeting, which were ratified by our full Community Board as follows.

First, CB6 resolved by a vote of 30 in favor, 0 against, with 1 abstention, to call upon you and Mayor Bloomberg to fund GIPEC's operating budget at the levels they requested from the State, to be matched by City funds. If we are to have any hope of fully integrating Governors Island into the mix of harbor uses, GIPEC must continue to have an active operation that is open and accessible to the public. The State/City accepted responsibility for maintaining and investing in the island, and public funding will be used to continue to stabilize and preserve the existing buildings and infrastructure. It would, therefore, be a serious deprivation of the public's right to access the island if GIPEC suddenly found itself without an adequate operating budget. We are hopeful that was not your intent and the GIPEC will be allocated the necessary operating budget which they have requested of the State and City.

Second, CB6 resolved unanimously to call upon you and Mayor Bloomberg to immediately require that half of the members of GIPEC's Board of Directors be either Brooklyn residents or

stakeholders from our borough. We repeatedly have expressed our displeasure over the absence of Brooklyn representation on GIPEC's Board to your predecessor and our complaints have seemingly fallen on deaf ears. Brooklyn is naturally aligned with Governors Island because of proximity, and our previously expressed fears of becoming the service entrance to the island would be greatly allayed if we felt that our borough's interests were adequately represented on the decision-making body itself.

Lastly, CB6 resolved unanimously to reiterate our call for the continuation of an ongoing study for creating intra-harbor ferry transportation from Brooklyn's Fulton Landing, Pier 6 and Pier 11 by the Summer of 2009, with implementation as soon as possible on completion of the study. Despite Governors Island being half the distance from our shore as it is from Manhattan's, and after GIPEC subsidized free ferry transportation between Manhattan and the island during previous seasons, we find it incredible that we are still left without any direct way of getting there from Brooklyn. Investments have been made across the harbor, but we have been left standing on the shore. The disparity must end. We need your immediate commitment that Brooklyn will have access to the island this upcoming event season, which begins shortly.

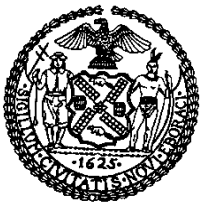
Please understand that as much as we want to see Governors Island blossom into the attraction we know it already is, we are equally frustrated by the inequitable treatment that Brooklyn has received to date. Your leadership and intervention are needed to help correct this now. We look forward to hearing from you on these issues at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Bashner
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg
Hon. Marty Markowitz
Hon. David Yassky
Hon. Sara M. Gonzalez
Hon. Bill de Blasio
Hon. Joan Millman
Hon. Daniel Squadron
Hon. Jerrold Nadler
Leslie Koch, President, GIPEC



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Marty Markowitz
Borough President

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March 10, 2009

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

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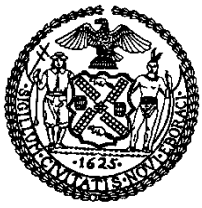
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Chairperson

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Hon. Sara M. Gonzalez
Hon. Bill de Blasio
Hon. Joan Millman
Hon. Daniel Squadron
Hon. Jerrold Nadler
Leslie Koch, President, GIPEC



THE CITY OF NEW YORK **COMMUNITY BOARD SIX**

Marty Markowitz
Borough President

Jerry Armer
Chairperson

Craig Hammerman
District Manager

December 3, 2003

Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor
City of New York
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

I am writing to advise you that at its November 12, 2003 general meeting, Community Board 6 did resolve to request that you take immediate steps to ensure that we are formally and officially afforded standing in the planning process now underway involving the use of Governors Island, most directly by using your powers under Section 2702 of the City Charter to propose a new Community District map that transfers jurisdiction for Governors Island from Manhattan Community Board 1 (CB1) to Brooklyn Community Board 6 (CB6).

Brooklyn is a stone's throw from Governors Island across the Buttermilk Channel, while Manhattan is at least twice as far away. Governors Island is twice as long as it is wide; and its length runs parallel to Brooklyn, making it a visually prominent part of our waterfront. Brooklyn's CB6 is closest to Governors Island. CB6 has three times the population of Manhattan's CB1 (104,054 to 34,420 respectively). Governors Island receives its utilities from Brooklyn, disposes its sewage through pipes to Brooklyn, and would likely receive additional security coverage in the future from Brooklyn. Any sensible process would therefore place Governors Island within Brooklyn's CB6 for planning purposes.

Nevertheless, for purely historical reasons Governors Island is deemed to be part of Manhattan and is part of Manhattan's CB1. In fact, the Manhattan border extends all the way to the Brooklyn bulkhead line, so that the Buttermilk Channel and a portion of Piers 6-12 are deemed to be part of Manhattan CB1 as well. These historical anomalies were of little consequence for the most part before New York City acquired Governors Island; now that it is part of the City, and now that real planning for its redevelopment appears to be underway, these anomalies must be corrected.

We note with interest that the Chairperson of Manhattan CB1 was appropriately appointed to the Board of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation. We are also aware that the budget of Manhattan CB1 was significantly enhanced to help their community deal with the monumental planning challenges they faced. Brooklyn's waterfront is undergoing a major transformation for the new millennium, the likes of which have not been seen before. Our experience as a member of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, our Board's active involvement in the planning efforts to date related to Red Hook and Piers 6-12, and our anticipated involvement in future planning efforts related to the Brooklyn waterfront will continue to place high demands and will tax our ability to meet our Charter-mandated role to encourage and facilitate citizen participation in local government within their community.

Brooklyn CB6 is in desperate need of more waterfront access and recreational opportunities; we have but a few refurbished piers, while Manhattan's CB1 has Battery Park, the Battery Park City parks, North Cove, the Hudson River Park, South Street Seaport, Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, recreational boating, ferries and water taxis. Without official and formal standing in the redevelopment process by CB6, Governors Island easily could become an exclusive preserve for Manhattan visitors, while Brooklyn residents are left out. Having directly experienced the arrogance of Robert Moses in the construction of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway at the expense of our neighborhoods, we cannot sit idly by as a witness to history repeating itself.

Brooklyn's CB6 is really the primary stakeholder here, especially given the anticipated need for Governors Island to include income-generating uses to support ongoing maintenance costs. Whatever those income-generating uses turn out to be, CB6 is the primary marketplace and most likely source of consumers and suppliers since it has three times the population of Manhattan's CB1, is half the distance away, has a vastly underutilized labor pool yet makes genuine and significant contributions to Brooklyn's economic vitality and affluence.

Thus, we believe that it will be critical to the success of the Governors Island redevelopment for CB6 to play a significant role in its planning and oversight, and we have adopted the following recommendations:

- 1) **Transfer of Governors Island to Brooklyn's Community Board 6.** We believe that in order to achieve the goal of community participation in the planning and oversight of Governors Island, it must be transferred from Manhattan's CB1 to Brooklyn's CB6 immediately, as would be possible under Section 2702 of the City Charter. (We would prefer to have the borough of Brooklyn annex Governors Island, but we understand that this would be very difficult and would involve an act of the State legislature. A transfer of jurisdiction from Manhattan CB1 to Brooklyn CB6 as is within your power to propose would be a big step in the right direction.)
- 2) **Establish Dual Control.** If Brooklyn CB6 cannot quickly receive exclusive jurisdiction over Governors Island, then it should be given at least some formal, official and meaningful standing in the planning process. There is a great precedent for this approach, as indicated in Section 2701(d) of the City Charter. It places Roosevelt Island in the nearest Manhattan community district, but deems it to be within the nearest Queens community district for purposes of Section 2704 (coterminality of local services), Section 2705 (district service cabinets), and Section 2707 (agency budget/service statements). As an interim step, given that the planning

process has already begun, we believe that a system of dual control might be established to give Brooklyn CB6 an immediate seat at the table.

3) **Appoint CB6 Representatives.** Similarly, Brooklyn CB6 immediately should receive invitations to be represented by its own delegates on all committees, boards, and advisory groups involved in this process, including those of the public development corporation, the National Parks Service, and perhaps most importantly at this stage, any group that will participate in the selection of a consultant team.

4) **Allocate Additional Support Resources.** Unlike the larger agencies charged with administering the processes used to plan for the future of Governors Island, the Community Board's scant operating budget is inadequate to support the community's role in the broader and extensive planning efforts that need to be undertaken. Our Charter-mandated role in ensuring that meaningful public participation and community outreach effort occurs, coupled to our responsibility for comprehensive planning for our district, will be difficult at best to fulfill working within our current constraining budget. We are asking that sufficient resources be channeled directly to our District Office operating budget so that we will be able to pay for additional personnel, equipment, supplies and other needed services for community outreach, administrative and professional support, and other vital functions. Naturally, we will not shirk our responsibilities to our community, even without such additional resources available, but our ability to provide a sufficient level of support and assistance to the larger agencies involved may be hamstrung by these constraints.

5) **Extend the Request for Proposals Deadline.** The public corporation that controls the process recently issued a Request for Proposals, with a THREE-WEEK deadline to:

select a consultant team to provide planning and pre-development consulting services including land use planning, market and economic analysis, historic preservation and transportation consulting...[and to] help...further refine the conceptual land use plan and program of future uses on the Island and better assess the needs and costs to upgrade the buildings and infrastructure...The consultant team's work products will...assist in the process of identifying a set of preferred redevelopment scenarios and potential anchor tenants as well as matching specific uses to appropriate spaces...It is expected that the Consultant Team will recommend...preferred conceptual land-use...plans and [a] program of uses for the Island by Summer 2004 from which a detailed master plan will then be developed.

A three-week timetable for responses seems woefully inadequate, if the goal is to encourage the maximum degree of participation among those interested in applying. In addition, as noted above, Brooklyn CB6 would like to be involved in the process of selecting the consultant team.

We hope you will see the merits in these suggestions and eagerly anticipate your response.

Sincerely,

Jerry Armer
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Marty Markowitz
Hon. David Yassky
Hon. Sara Gonzalez
Hon. Bill de Blasio
Hon. Joan Millman
Hon. Martin Connor
Hon. Jerrold Nadler
Deputy Mayor Dan Doctoroff
Andrew M. Alper, President, EDC
James Lima, President, GIPEC
Madelyn Wils, Chairperson, Manhattan CB1
Brooklyn Community Boards