

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2008

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FRIENDS OF HUDSON RIVER PARK CONDEMNS GANSEVOORT PARKLAND ALIENATION LEGISLATION (A.11773/S.8723)

City officials ignored the community - never considered alternatives as required

Friends of Hudson River Park (FoHRP) today condemns the Assembly's recent passage of A.11773, which would alienate the Gansevoort section of the Hudson River Park for the purpose of building a sanitation facility as part of the City of New York's Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). We oppose any plan to alienate this valuable piece of open space and urge the Senate and the Governor to do the same.

FoHRP does NOT take the position that the waste stream slated for the Gansevoort site should be dumped in any other borough or somewhere else in Manhattan. To the contrary, we are fully prepared to take that entire waste stream and more in our area of Manhattan –at Pier 76 at 36th Street, behind the Jacob Javits Convention Center. We applaud the adoption of the Solid Waste Management Plan and support its goal of developing an equitable distribution of waste management facilities among all five (5) boroughs. Pier 76 is more in-line with these environmental justice goals.

Our opposition to A.11773/S.8723 is based on three key points a) this facility would be alienating parkland, which was dedicated as a part of Hudson River Park with the signing of the Hudson River Park Act of 1998, b) the SWMP requires the Administration to look at alternatives if there is a challenge gaining use of a proposed site; there has not been a serious evaluation of any alternative site to the Gansevoort location and c) working with the communities and the elected representatives, we have accepted the need for a facility and have conducted a study demonstrating that Pier 76 is a viable alternative.

Pier 76 offers a more comprehensive solution by combining two facilities into one rather than moving forward with the administration's plan to create two separate facilities for Gansevoort and Pier 99 at 59th Street, also in Hudson River Park. Moreover, the Pier 76 facility could take more sanitation trucks and twice as much waste out of the other boroughs – 150 to 200

additional trucks per day – than the Administration’s plan. It can be built sooner and saves money. Expert studies from Halcrow Engineers, who have done much of the marine work in Hudson River Park and were peer-reviewed by the McLaren Engineering Group, demonstrate Pier 76 to be financially and logistically feasible. This plan does not require a legislative change and construction could begin immediately without significant interruption to current operations. Furthermore, no work can commence on Gansevoort until 2013, the year by which the City has stated it can relocate the current sanitation facilities.

There are multiple benefits to the Pier 76 proposal: fewer trucks going through overburdened communities, a facility well underway before work on Gansevoort could even begin, consolidation of City facilities in a single location, increased park space, no need to relocate the NYPD’s tow pound or mounted police troop AND the support of the local community – all at costs consistent with the City’s proposals.

To date, the Administration has not given the Pier 76 alternative fair consideration. We are more than willing to sit down with the City to conduct a thorough analysis of the Pier 76 proposal, so that we can address the needs of New York City together before a final decision is made to rip up existing parkland.

Friends of Hudson River Park, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1999 is the only community-based organization exclusively dedicated to the creation and preservation of the entire Hudson River Park for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Its mission is to support and maintain the park as a world-class park for everyone, and represents thousands of supporting organizations and individuals who share its goals.

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