



COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

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Nilsa Orama

Chair

Angel D. Mescaín

District Manager

September 28, 2020

Jennifer Ratner

Chair

Friends of East River Esplanade

525 East 86th Street, #8A

New York, NY 10028

Dear Ms. Ratner,

Community Board 11 supports the extension of the El Barrio Bait Station contract on the East River Esplanade. Though the original installation was as a temporary installation, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the utilization and programming at the bait station was not able to be appreciated and executed as planned.

The El Barrio Bait Station is located at East 100th Street on the East River Esplanade. The bait station is an important community amenity, providing a working station that is ADA compliant for the fishermen and women who frequent the East River. The bait station is an artistic element that also serves as a statement that calls attention to the necessity of ongoing investment and maintenance at the East River Esplanade in Community District 11.

The bait station had its ribbon cutting ceremony on October 2, 2019 and is slated for removal at the end of 2020. It has been awarded with the 2020 Masterworks Award for Best New Infrastructure and has been long-listed for Dezeen Awards 2020 in the category of Public Infrastructure.

We are extremely grateful to the advocacy work of Friends of the East River Esplanade for their commitment to revitalizing this important public infrastructure, to JACOBSCHANG Architecture, Maspeth Welding, SMI Construction Management, Inc., and Robert Silman Associates for their design and fabrication work, and to NYS Sea Grant who provided funding for this public intervention.

We hope that instead of removing this important community amenity, East Harlem residents will benefit from additional bait stations being installed along the Esplanade in conjunction with the much-needed repair and maintenance at the East River Esplanade so that East Harlem can have an equitable waterfront experience.

If you have any questions, please contact Carly Wine, our Assistant District Manager, at 212-831-8929 or cwine@cb11m.org.

Sincerely,



Nilsa Orama

Chair

cc: Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President (via email)
Hon. Diana Ayala, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Bill Perkins, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Ben Kallos, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Keith Powers, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Ines Dickens, New York State Assembly (via email)
Hon. Jose Serrano, New York State Senate (via email)
Hon. Brian Benjamin New York State Senate (via email)
Hon. Robert Rodriguez, New York State Assembly (via email)
Commissioner Mitchell Silver, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (via email)
Steve Simon, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (via email)
Denilyn Arciaga, Community Board 11 (via email)
Jessica Elliott, Community Board 11 (via email)