February 18, 2020

Justin Garrett Moore
Executive Director
Public Design Commission
City Hall, 3rd floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Proposed Reconstruction of Portions of the East River Esplanade Phase 2

Dear Mr. Moore,

Community Board 11 (CB11) supports the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation’s proposed reconstruction, rehabilitation and design for Phase 2 of the East River Esplanade project as presented to our Environment, Open Space & Parks Committee on February 6, 2020.

Phase 2 of the East River Esplanade project focuses on the structures of the esplanade between East 114th Street and East 117th Street. The structure between 114th Street and 115th Street requires full reconstruction, while the structure between 115th Street and East 117th Street requires complete structural repairs. The project aims to both restore deteriorated structures and protect vulnerable structures and will ultimately extend the service life by over 50 years. In total, the project will cost $38.2 million and is funded through City Council funds, Mayoral funds, and funds agreed upon through the 2017 East Harlem Rezoning Points of Agreement.

The destabilization of the East River Esplanade has been a major concern for our community and our board for many years. We are pleased to support NYC Parks’ plan to rehabilitate this portion of the East River Esplanade and look forward to supporting the department’s efforts towards completion of the work at the East River Esplanade.

Community Board 11 requires City agencies to adhere to our local hiring preference guidelines, which set local hiring targets as follows:

- 35% for pre-construction jobs
- 35% for construction jobs
- 50% for post-construction hiring
- 35% of the total value of all contracts being awarded to local businesses.

We request that NYC Parks adhere to these guidelines and provide regular updates during the progression of the projects.
If you have any further questions, please contact Carly Wine, Assistant District Manager, at 212-831-8929.

Sincerely,

Nilza Orama
Chair

cc: Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President (via email)
    Hon. Diana Ayala, New York City Council (via email)
    Hon. Jose M. Serrano, New York State Senate (via email)
    Hon. Robert Rodriguez, New York State Assembly (via email)
    Steve Simon, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (via email)
    Denilyn Arciaga, Community Board 11 (via email)
    Frances Mastrota, Community Board 11 (via email)
    Jessica Elliott, Community Board 11 (via email)