

HUDSON RIVER PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hudson River Park Advisory Council
c/o Hudson River Park Trust
Pier 40, 2nd Floor
353 West Street
New York, NY 10014
P 212.627.2020

advisorycouncil@hrpt.ny.gov
[hudsonriverpark.org/about-us/
hudson-river-park-trust/advisory-council](http://hudsonriverpark.org/about-us/hudson-river-park-trust/advisory-council)

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Chair: Jeffrey LeFrancois
(Community Board 4)

First Vice Chair: Daniel Miller
(Community Board 2)

Second Vice Chair: Bob Townley
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Assembly Member Gottfried

Assembly Member Rosenthal

Assembly Minority Leader Appointment

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Chelsea Cultural Partnership

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Hudson Guild

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Hudson River Watertrail Assoc.

Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum*

Lilac

Little Island (Pier 55, Inc.)

Manhattan Youth, Recreation & Resources Inc.

Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance

New Yorkers for Parks

North River Historic Ship Society

Pier 66 Maritime

The Downtown Boathouse

The River Project

Village Community Boathouse

West Village Houses

May 4, 2021

Commissioner Henry Guttman
New York City Department of Transportation
55 Water Street
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Guttman:

Congratulations on your appointment as DOT Commissioner in February.

I write on behalf of The Hudson River Park Advisory Council, which is a statutory body established by the Hudson River Park Act (the Act) that provides advice and recommendations to the Hudson River Park Trust board of directors regarding the planning, design, construction and operation of the Hudson River Park. We are writing to request your assistance in addressing a critical issue for the completion of the Park, the removal of shuttle bus daytime lay over and overnight parking on the Park's public esplanade in front of the Pier 79 Midtown West ferry terminal.

I know that you are quite familiar with the struggle to create waterfront parks and their importance to the adjacent neighborhood given your early and long-time efforts to create the Brooklyn Bridge Park.

Manhattan Community Board 4 (Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen) is starved for public open space. MCB 4 contains over 2 miles of this 4-mile park, but they are also burdened with a preponderance of commercial maritime, municipal, and industrial activities on the Piers in the area. When the Midtown West ferry terminal at Pier 79 was planned, the Park was in its infancy. The Act allowed for a pick-up and drop off (PUDO) lane along the bulkhead in front of the Terminal for shuttle buses serving ferry customers commuting to and from New Jersey. They have been the primary users of the facility since its opening. However, NYC Ferry is planning to expand its operations to Pier 79 from Staten Island this spring.

When NYC EDC constructed the Pier 79 Terminal, in addition to the PUDO lane they installed several other lanes that have been used by the shuttle bus operator for daytime layover and overnight parking for buses serving the terminal. However, this area is part of the Hudson River Park esplanade and plans to design the esplanade in this area will be begin this year. It's imperative

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that the additional parking lanes that are inconsistent with the Act be relocated to an alternative location to facilitate the Park's completion.

The Advisory Council was informed that the NYC Department of Transportation is responsible for the current bus layover and overnight parking facility in the middle of the future esplanade. In addition, the senior Trust staff has stated that NYC DOT has consistently ignored the Trust's requests that the facility be removed from the Park to comply with the Act and allow for the completion of the esplanade.

The Advisory Council would appreciate an opportunity to meet with the appropriate DOT managers responsible for the facilities relocation and the Trust staff to discuss how the current situation can be rectified. The Advisory Council has informed the Trust that there appears to be a number of nearby opportunities for relocating this facility:

- The Javits Convention Center is completing a massive parking facility directly across Route 9A from the terminal.
- NYC EDC controls Passenger Ship Terminal which has a massive parking capability five blocks away from Pier 79.
- The adjacent New York Cruise Lines leasehold has empty parking facilities on Pier 81 and 83 adjacent to the Pier 79 terminal.
- The adjacent New York Cruise Lines leasehold has empty parking facilities on Pier 81 and 83 adjacent to the Pier 79 terminal.
- There are a number of private parking facilities that could accommodate overnight parking and layover space for the shuttle bus operator.

We have recently worked successfully with NYC Ferry and all the private ferry and water taxi operators operating in the Park to secure their agreement to comply with a voluntary 100-yard ferry safety zone. All of their vessels will now operate 100-yards off the tips of the piers along this 4-mile waterfront to minimize the impact of wakes on the Park's in-water infrastructure, small recreational boating, and environmental restoration efforts.

We appreciate the fact that you understand the importance of completing the construction of the Hudson River Park and ensuring the City's compliance with the Hudson River Park Act. We are hopeful that we can work successfully with NYC DOT to ensure the relocation of this facility and look forward to your

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leadership in guiding NYC DOT's appropriate action regarding this important issue.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey C. LeFrancois
Chair, Hudson River Park Advisory Council

Cc: Hudson River Park Trust
Manhattan Community Board 4
Ed Pincar, NYC DOT Manhattan Borough Commissioner