



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JOHN WEIS
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

March 12, 2010

Hon. Amanda M. Burden, Director
New York City Department of City Planning
22 Reade Street
New York, NY 10007-1216

Re: Application No. 100180PCM – Application for Site Selection and Acquisition of the High Line Rail Structure and Easements (Blocks 676, 679 and 702)

Dear Chair Burden:

On the recommendation of the Chelsea Preservation and Planning Committee, and after a duly noticed public hearing, Manhattan Community Board 4 voted to recommend the approval of the application for site selection and acquisition of the High Line rail structure and easements (Blocks 676, 679 and 702) - commonly known as Section 3 and bounded by West 30th Street, Tenth and Twelfth Avenues, and West 34th Street, and including a “spur” off the eastern end of the West 30th Street portion – for use as public open space.

Community Board 4 has supported the preservation of the High Line and its conversion into a park for the community from the beginning of the process. The city has acquired Sections 1 and 2, running from Gansevoort Street to West 20th Street and from West 20th Street to West 30th Street, as well as the portion over the intersection of Tenth Avenue and West 30th Street. Section 1 has been open as a public park since June of 2009 and has proved to be immensely popular. Section 2 is undergoing renovation and is expected to open to the public in 2011. The current application seeks approval for the city to acquire Section 3, which is located above the Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s West Side Rail Yards and above Block 679, owned by the Convention Center Development Corporation.

The recent rezoning of the Western Rail Yards clearly indicates that the city's plans for developing the West Side Rail Yards include the preservation and conversion of the High Line, incorporating it into an open space network to be built over the rail yards. The site selection and acquisition that is the subject of this application is the first formal step in this process. CB4 enthusiastically recommends approval and looks forward to working with the city and the designated developer to ensure that Section 3 of the High Line park fulfills the early promise of Section 1.

Sincerely,



John Weis, Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



J. Lee Compton, Co-Chair
Chelsea Preservation and Planning

[signed 3/12/10]

Corey Johnson, Co-Chair
Chelsea Preservation and Planning

cc: NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn
NYC Council Land Use Division – Danielle DeCerbo
NYS Senator Thomas K. Duane
NYS Assemblyman Richard Gottfried
MBP Scott Stringer
MBPO – Anthony Borelli, Deborah Morris