

July 31, 2003

Bernadette Castro  
Commissioner  
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Empire State Plaza Agency Building One  
Albany, NY 12238

**Re: John J. Harvey Fireboat**

Dear Commissioner Castro,

We are writing in support of the retired fireboat *John J. Harvey* and its application for a matching grant from your office. Not only would preserving this vessel be an asset to the New York City waterfront as a piece of history, but it also means guaranteeing a chance for hundreds of New Yorkers to get out on the Hudson River, and experience the city from the water.

Since *John J. Harvey* has been docked in Chelsea, its owners have provided dozens of free trips to the public. Its owners have taken those of us involved in the planning of the Hudson River Park out on the water to view the park from the other side of the bulkhead, and they have done the same for hundreds of local school children in the past two years.

The fireboat has also become a beacon on the water at nearly every celebration, park opening and waterfront event, and it has made the rounds of the Hudson River towns as well, promoting the cause of historic ships and improved waterfront access.

Put succinctly, we don't want to lose *John J. Harvey*. Please help fund its restoration so Chelsea can keep a piece of the city's past, as well as a means to get out on the river.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Pam Frederick  
Co-Chair  
Waterfront & Parks Committee