



October 22, 2015

Mayor Bill de Blasio
City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

As elected representatives of Greenpoint and Williamsburg, we write to you regarding the status of Bushwick Inlet Park, specifically regarding the 7.5-acre CitiStorage property located between North 10th and North 12th Streets.

In 2005, the City of New York approved the rezoning of 185 blocks on the Greenpoint-Williamsburg waterfront. One of the City's central promises to our community in that rezoning was the creation of more than two dozen acres of contiguous parkland at Bushwick Inlet on the East River where Greenpoint and Williamsburg meet.

Prior to the 2005 rezoning, the working class communities of Williamsburg and Greenpoint had one of the lowest per capita open space ratios in all of New York City. The creation of Bushwick Inlet Park was specifically identified in the Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the Department of City Planning as mitigating the impact of the substantial population growth that would be brought on by the rezoning.

Ten years later, our community has seen substantial growth but we have not seen the parks and open space that were an integral part of the City's plan for Greenpoint and Williamsburg. As a result of the rezoning and a booming real estate market throughout North Brooklyn, our community has seen over 18,000 new or rehabilitated housing units since 2005.

To date, the City has failed to acquire a significant parcel of land in the center of what should be Bushwick Inlet Park – the 7.5-acre CitiStorage property located between North 10th and North 12th Streets. Without this parcel, a contiguous park cannot be built. Moreover, there are now concerns that the CitiStorage property could be sold and that the owner may pursue a residential rezoning of our promised parkland.

A residential rezoning of all or part of the CitiStorage property would result in the loss of acres of open space promised by the City, as well as the addition of thousands more residents – actions that would undo the careful planning of 2005 and call into question the viability of the entire 2005 rezoning. Rezoning the property for residential use would also run counter to decades of public planning.

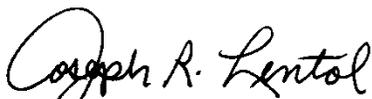
Going back to the 1980s, there have been many plans and proposals for the Bushwick Inlet waterfront. None of these have included residential use. This property has always been envisioned by the community and the City as either heavy manufacturing (M3) or open space, and to consider it for any other use would run counter to the well-ordered land-use plans of the past quarter century or more.

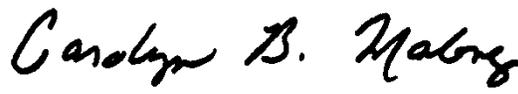
As elected representatives of the citizens of North Brooklyn, we want to be clear that we will not support any rezoning of any part of the promised Bushwick Inlet Park. Nor will we support any special permits or other discretionary actions for any use of the CitiStorage property other than a public park.

We stand with the residents of North Brooklyn in urging that the City of New York live up to its promise to create the complete Bushwick Inlet Park on the North Brooklyn waterfront by acquiring the CitiStorage property as expeditiously as possible through eminent domain or other means. Additionally, we fully support the goals of the Greenpoint Monitor Museum to create a museum on their land/property and for their site to be excluded from the footprint of any action of eminent domain on Bushwick Inlet. We call on the City of New York to work with the Museum toward this and fully support the goals of the Greenpoint Monitor Museum. Furthermore, we also call on the City of New York to publicly declare its commitment to the acquisition of the CitiStorage property and the completion of Bushwick Inlet Park as promised in the 2005 rezoning.

After ten years, it is time for the City of New York to live up to its promise to the citizens of Williamsburg and Greenpoint, who have been waiting for decades to have access to their waterfront.

Sincerely,


Joseph R. Lentol
50th Assembly District


Carolyn B. Maloney
12th Congressional District


Stephen T. Levin
33rd Council District


Antonio Reynoso
34th Council District


Daniel Squadron
26th Senate District


Martin Malavé Dilan
18th Senate District


Eric L. Adams
Brooklyn Borough President