



October 13, 2022

**Battery Park City Neighborhood Association (BPCNA) statement on the Battery Park City Authority's (the "Authority") vote to approve the demolition of Wagner Park**

The Battery Park City Neighborhood Association (BPCNA) opposes the Authority's decision to approve the Final Environmental Impact Statement and South Battery Park City Resiliency Project ("Wagner Park Project") on October 11, 2022. Despite thousands of emails, vocal opposition and ignored community feedback, the Authority voted to approve this design.

The BPCNA agrees climate change is a critical issue and we strongly call for bolder, more aggressive action to mitigate climate impacts and reduce carbon emissions. We have consistently asked for a better, nature-based design that preserves the park's incredible green space. Instead of engaging in thoughtful and meaningful discourse, the Authority has wrongly and disingenuously labeled those who oppose its current plan as "climate deniers" — a deceptive tactic to silence the community it has been charged to serve.

The lower Manhattan community is asking to be meaningfully heard and considered with respect to an alternate design, which is currently being developed by an independent committee of experts, some of whom the Authority has hired and trusted in the past.

The proposed design uses the following principles:

- Minimal impact to existing green infrastructure
- Leverage nature-based solutions
- Prioritization of green space and grass over concrete
- Preservation of mature trees
- Preservation and integration with the unique character of the park as it is an integral component of the entire Battery Park City campus
- Prioritization of the most vulnerable areas

We invite Governor Hochul and all leaders and elected officials, regardless of political affiliation or leaning, to stand with us to protect our green spaces and support a better resiliency plan. *Protection of green spaces is NOT a partisan issue; it is a people issue.*

We invite all people to advocate for meaningful consideration of the community's alternate plan. Stay tuned in the coming week for details on this new design rollout.

Sincerely,

The Battery Park City Neighborhood Association