



October 19, 2022

Dear Elected Officials and Leaders of Lower Manhattan,

We write to express our appreciation and full support for Manhattan Community Board 1's (CB1) resolutions and letters regarding resiliency plans for Robert F. Wagner Jr. Park. We draw your attention to CB1 resolutions dating back to 2017 ([5/23/17](#), [9/26/17](#), [12/19/18](#), [2/25/20](#)) that question the need to demolish Wagner Park and to the [CB1 letter dated October 12, 2022](#), that reiterates their past and current position.

With respect to Wagner Park, the October 12th letter states, "In Battery Park City... the proposed plan for the alignment of Rockefeller Park recently presented to the public includes an alternative which allows the park to remain relatively intact. The public understandably has asked for an explanation as to why the neighboring Wagner Park plan did not include a similar alternative to avoid razing the existing park."

In order to address the community's long-standing concerns over the Battery Park City Authority's (the "Authority's") plan to needlessly demolish Wagner Park, the community has assembled a team of independent experts. These experts are volunteering their time to develop an alternative design to address the concerns of the Lower Manhattan community, including those raised by CB1. This new plan will provide the same quality of flood protection in South Battery Park City while also incorporating the design principles of the Authority's North/West Resiliency project that includes Rockefeller Park. It is important that resiliency planning for the entirety of Battery Park City is based on the same design principles and climate science, as we are one community facing the same climate risks. It remains of concern that the Authority is using yet again different design principles in BPC than those used for The Battery project to the south and other plans to the north. As CBI expressed, "It is critical the community receive a comprehensive plan which identifies the plans resiliency principles and which addresses the entirety of the Lower Manhattan peninsula, before any new demolition or construction begins."

Our expert team expects to finalize alternative design plans this week and will present their plans to the public to solicit feedback. Many of these experts have been hired by and relied upon by the Authority for past projects. The team's expertise, credentials, and opinions deserve respect and meaningful consideration, especially considering the long-standing concerns about the current South project and the inexplicable difference in design principles being applied to the adjacent resiliency projects.

We all share the same goal: a world-class climate resiliency project to protect Lower Manhattan; a project with clearly identified resiliency principles that the community understands and supports. This is our chance to serve as a gold standard model for community backed-resiliency projects that can be emulated worldwide.

We count on your support to make this a reality.

Sincerely,
The Battery Park City Neighborhood Association
The Battery Alliance



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