



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

New York City Planning Commission

Special Governors Island District

N 130189(A) ZRM

C 130190 ZMM

Phased Redevelopment of Governors Island Draft Supplemental Generic Impact Statement CEQR No. 11DME007M

Testimony by Michael Levine, Director of Planning Manhattan Community Board 1

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

22 Reade Street, Spector Hall New York, NY

10:00 AM

Good morning. I am Michael Levine, Director of Planning at Manhattan Community Board One (CB1). Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application for the creation of a Special Governors Island District.

CB1 applauds the incredible planning effort that has taken place since the decision was made in 2003 to transform Governors Island into a public resource, including the recent plans to transform the Island into a vibrant, mixed-use destination. Now, more than ever, we are enthusiastic about the incredible potential of the island for appropriate redevelopment benefiting the surrounding communities, the City and the region.

The Special Governors Island District zoning and re-tenanting proposal on the North Island would allow most commercial uses to be developed in the existing R3-2 district in approximately 1.2 million square feet of space in existing historic structures. We believe the zoning proposal and the re-tenanting plan will result in increased public use of the island, bring revenue to the Governors Island Trust to maintain the island and create economic opportunities for local small business and organizations.

We are pleased that the Governors Island Trust staff has worked with us and the Department of City Planning staff to devise a formula whereby Community Board 1 will have the opportunity to review all commercial developments 7,500 square feet and larger which may have the potential for major impacts on the Lower Manhattan community. We are therefore pleased to support adoption of this zoning text and map amendment.

I will be followed by Catherine McVay Hughes, Chairperson of CB1, who will outline our specific concerns regarding the potential impacts of increased commercial development in the area surrounding Lower Manhattan's Battery Maritime Building.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.