



GOWANUS CANAL COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)

your local voice for Superfund

For more information: www.GowanusCAG.org

The following CAG resolution requests formal consideration by the indicated parties to conduct activities related to the Gowanus Canal Cleanup with regard to the concerns and interests of the Gowanus community.

TITLE: Demand for Construction Communication and Oversight

TO: Kazimir Vilenchik, P.E., Acting Commissioner, NYC Department of Buildings
Mark McIntyre, Director, NYC Office of Environmental Remediation
Rohit T. Aggarwala, Commissioner, NYC Department of Environmental Protection
Dan Garodnick, Director, NYC Department of City Planning
Basil Seggos, Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
James McDonald, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Commissioner, NYS Department of Health
Lisa Garcia, Regional Administrator, EPA Region 2

DATE: December 27, 2022

Resolved, the CAG urgently demands that the agencies addressed above immediately formalize competent, transparent and inclusive communications and oversight about all remediation and construction work in the Gowanus neighborhood. This must include:

BEFORE ANY CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

- 1) Setting and communicating clear requirements and penalties for construction hours and community notice for all permitted construction;
- 2) Transparent and accessible communication to, and coordination with, all agencies, elected officials and Community Board 6 before, during and after all planned construction activities, including details about environmental monitoring protocols and results; and
- 3) Providing an accessible database of all local permitted construction activities.

DURING ANY CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

- 4) Taking immediate action to stop construction activities that are unpermitted, taking place outside required hours or potentially creating environmental hazards for on-site workers or the surrounding community; and
- 5) Providing a 24/7 contact number for community concerns, and cataloging all concerns.

Background:

We are concerned about the unanticipated pile driving activity by the private owner that began on Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 475 and 463 Smith Street in Brooklyn, Parcel 3, the former Citizen's Manufacturing Gas Site, a known polluted area which is both a state brownfield site and part of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated Superfund Site. The pile driving caused intense vibrations, intense noises, and emitted a coal tar smell. No advance notice of pending construction was received by any elected officials, EPA, Community Board 6, or the community from any agency or entity. The public deserves to know when any aspect of construction is taking place in an



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environmentally fragile area—particularly a highly toxic marshland full of coal tar which spreads in every direction through the site—and what oversight measures have been made to protect them from the toxicity at the site.

This community is about to undergo the development of many new buildings as a result of a major rezoning. The Gowanus rezoning was approved contingent upon a list of conditions the community expected to be fulfilled, especially with regard to the integrity of the Superfund remedy to ensure the health and safety of existing and future residents. Failure to communicate about this recent pile driving does not bode well for the public trust which needs to be repaired. Competent and transparent communications are critical for the accountability demanded by the Community Board and local residents and agreed to by the City.

Cc:

Michael Racioppo, District Manager, Community Board 6
David Briggs, Landmarks & Land Use Co-Chair
Hildegard Link, Environmental Protection Co-Chair
Angelica Ramdhari, Environmental Protection Co-Chair
Honorable Lincoln Restler, Council Member, District 33
Honorable Shahana Hanif, Council Member, District 39
Honorable Antonio Reynoso, Brooklyn Borough President
Honorable Jo Anne Simon, Assembly District 52
Honorable Jabari Brisport, Senate District 25
Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez
Congressman Daniel Goldman

Please direct responses and inquiries to Doug Sarno, doug@forumfg.com.