



April 4, 2015

Dennis Mehiel, Chair
Battery Park City Authority
200 Liberty Street, 24th Floor
New York, NY 10281

Dear Mr. Mehiel,

As you know, we have long called for stronger community role in Battery Park City Authority (BPCA) decision-making. As such, we write to urge the BPCA Board to include a public comment session during its meetings, and to ensure the public portion of the meeting is conducted in one continuous block before executive session. Allowing public comment is an important part of public engagement.

Currently, at no point during Authority Board meetings are residents allowed to comment on proposed actions of the Board or on issues affecting local residents. The only way for a community member to voice concerns about agenda items would be to be on the Board itself. As you know, only one member of the Board resides in the local community.

The lack of public comment is in stark contrast to other State Authorities. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and the Roosevelt Island Operating Commission all allow public comment. As you also may remember (as a former Vice Chair), the Empire State Development Corporation allows public comment on each individual agenda item before conducting votes. Public comment is also allowed at a number of other entities, including the Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation, the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, and the Trust for Governors Island.

Time and time again the Authority's actions have shown that greater communication with the residents of Battery Park City must be a priority. We urge you to further that priority by agreeing to hold public comment sessions at Authority meetings.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Squadron".

Daniel Squadron
State Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerrold Nadler".

Jerrold Nadler
Congressmember

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gale A. Brewer".

Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Glick".

Deborah Glick
Assemblymember

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Chin".

Margaret Chin
City Councilmember