



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK

## MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 7

250 West 87<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10024 • Phone (212) 362-4008  
Website: <https://nyc.gov/mcb7> • E-mail: [mn07@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:mn07@cb.nyc.gov)

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### RESOLUTION

**Date: May 2, 2023**

**Committee of Origin: Parks & Environment**

**Re: 79<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Basin. Dock house Conceptual Design.**

**Full Board Vote: 27 In Favor 2 Against 0 Abstentions 0 Present**

*Committee: 4-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Member: 8-0-0-0.*

The following facts and concerns were considered in arriving at our conclusion:

- The 79<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Basin is operated by NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation (NYC DPR). It is located near W79<sup>th</sup> Street and the Henry Hudson Parkway, NY, NY, adjacent to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed Riverside Park and Drive Historic District (NRHP No. 90PR03411). Riverside Park and Drive is historically significant for its landscape architecture designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux. Any structure built within this area must be contextually appropriate in size, design, and materials regardless of the funding source as mandated by federal and city authorities (the NRHP and Landmarks Preservation Commission, respectively).
- NYC DPR has applied to FEMA for Public Assistance grant funding under DR-4085 Sandy New York. As such, FEMA must consider effects to historic properties under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).
- NYC DPR has proposed construction of a two-story dock house elevated on an additional story in a location south of the existing dock house. The new dock house will be within the Riverside Park and Drive viewshed, impacting views to the Hudson River.
- FEMA determined with concurrence from the NY State Historic Preservation Office that the proposed undertaking would constitute an Adverse Effect to Historic Properties.
- At 4:46PM on Monday, April 17, 2023, CB7 received notice from FEMA in a letter dated April 12, 2023 seeking public input and comments on this project reflecting any knowledge of, or concerns with, this historic property or those within the project area.
- Written comments can be mailed to: DHS-FEMA Region 2, Office of Environmental Planning & Historic Preservation, 26 Federal Plaza, Suite 1802, NY, NY 10278-0002 or via email, at
  - [FEMAR2COMMENT@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMAR2COMMENT@fema.dhs.gov). FEMA will respond to any substantive comments in the
  - format they are received. If no substantive comments are received, FEMA will proceed with the Section 106 Adverse Effect process outlined under the NHPA.
- The comment period for the undertaking detailed above will end 15 days from the date of this publication or from the posting of this notice in [newspaper, website, etc.], whichever date is later.
- MCB7 has been granted an extension for the public comment period by FEMA until May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, based on receipt of the letter on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7 / Manhattan **opposes** the current 79<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Basin plan in light of FEMA's ruling of Adverse Effect to Historic Properties. We respectfully request that EDC and DPR modify the project as currently configured to remedy the Adverse Effect on the Historic Properties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any modifications to the 79th Street Boat Basin **must be contextually appropriate** for this historic district as mandated by the National Register of Historic Places and Landmarks Preservation Commission.