

JOSÉ E. SERRANO
16TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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www.house.gov/serrano

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3216

COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING DEMOCRAT
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, AND JUDICIARY
HOMELAND SECURITY

MEMBER, CONGRESSIONAL
HISPANIC CAUCUS

MEMBER, CONGRESSIONAL
BLACK CAUCUS

VICE CHAIR
DEMOCRATIC STEERING
COMMITTEE

July 27, 2009

Ken Salazar
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

I am writing to bring to your attention the Harlem River Working Group's application for funding and organizational support from the National Park Service. This application to partner with the River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program focuses on restoring the Harlem River, which runs between my district of the Bronx and Upper Manhattan. It complements past efforts that my office has spearheaded, including initiatives to establish the South Bronx and Bronx River greenways, a network of parks and paths that not only increases recreational opportunities but also spurs local economic development.

For many years, limited community involvement along the river has focused on advocacy for better waterfront access, environmental education about local flora and fauna, and enhancements to facilitate waterborne recreational activities. With support through the River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, the Harlem River Working Group will be able to move this agenda forward, organizing a broad coalition of stakeholders and local residents to establish clear projects and recommendations to policy makers and elected officials. The work of this new group will guide the use and development of existing, planned, and future parks, connecting these significant resources to the diverse communities in and around the western edge of my district who in large part lack access to open space. This effort is significant for my constituents as it seeks to reclaim the waterfront for communities heavily impacted by commercial and industrial development.

Thank you for your ongoing service to our nation and for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress

JES:ss

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN
WESTERN HEMISPHERE
SUBCOMMITTEE

OTHER SUBCOMMITTEES:

ASIA, THE PACIFIC, AND THE
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

HEALTH

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC WHIP



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

ELIOT L. ENGEL

17th DISTRICT, NEW YORK

2161 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3217
(202) 225-2464

DISTRICT OFFICES:

3655 JOHNSON AVENUE
BRONX, NY 10463
(718) 796-9700

6 GRAMATAN AVENUE
SUITE 205
MOUNT VERNON, NY 10550
(914) 699-4100

261 WEST NYACK ROAD
WEST NYACK, NY 10994
(845) 735-1000

WEBSITE: <http://engel.house.gov>

July 16, 2009

Ken Salazar, Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

I am writing to support an application for funding and staff support for a Harlem River Working Group which will work toward restoring the Harlem River, which runs between the Bronx and Manhattan in New York City, and reconnecting this waterfront with the communities along it.

There already is a significant community involvement in working for access to the river, education about the river and outreach into the communities and advocacy for restoration of the river for in-the-water recreational activities and commercial activities.

A number of organizations are already involved in promoting restoration of the river including Manhattan College and the Bronx Borough President's Office. There are also a number of parks located along the river's banks, including Inwood Hill Park, an area which still has original growth trees and, in parts, has not been altered since pre-colonial times. It is where the Dutch are said to have purchased the land for \$24.

I urge you to have the National Parks Service to approve this funding to organize and help establish the Harlem River Working Group as a community-led initiative to work with local, state, and federal officials to promote and redevelop the Harlem River.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eliot L. Engel". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Eliot L. Engel
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

DAVID A. PATERSON
GOVERNOR

July 27, 2009

Steve Golden, Chief
Conservation Assistance Division
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Program
National Parks Service
15 State Street
Boston Massachusetts 02109

Dear Mr. Golden:

I am writing in support of the Harlem River Restoration Project application to the National Park Service funding and staff support for a Harlem River Working Group (HRWG) in the Bronx.

It is important to support the work of the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality (BCEQ) to preserve and protect watersheds in New York State, including the Bronx River Watershed and the NYC Drinking Water Watersheds. Recently, their work has focused on coordinating waterfront stakeholders to establish a Harlem River Working Group. This was an incidental result of the New York State Brownfields Opportunity Area (BOA) Phase I for the Harlem River in 2004. For many years, BCEQ partnered with local groups and institutions and used their annual meeting to provide a forum for discussion including: Manhattan College, Partnerships for Parks, Bronx Borough President's Office, Friends of Brook Park (FBP), UDEC Harlem River Ecology Center, Highbridge Community Life Center (HCLC), and The Consolidated Edison Company.

I support the goal of the HRWG to clean up the Harlem River; reconnecting the waterfront with the people; enhancing waterfront access for the public; and reinvigorating recreational and commercial activities. The interest extends along the full length of the river's edge in the Bronx to include local parks and/or public access points. When the community learns the benefit of waterfront access, they will also seek cleaner alternatives to preserve the Harlem River's ecological health.

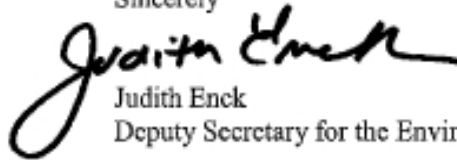
The challenge they face is how to improve the river's natural resources and its linkage to the East River, Hudson River and New York Harbor Estuary, in the midst of serious water quality problems. This waterfront has the potential to be a valuable destination for non-motorized

commuting and recreation. Its waters have historically been one of the most prolific areas for recreational boating in New York City.

I support the application of the HRWG to organize activities for the entire Bronx and to restore the river. The need for a person like Jerry Willis, New York Director of River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, as well as someone dedicated to working on Harlem River issues, especially given the wide range of projects that are ready to go, is essential.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith Enck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning of the first name.

Judith Enck
Deputy Secretary for the Environment



P.S. 126X

The Dr. Marjorie H. Dunbar Elementary School
"Together We Can Make the Difference"

175 West 166th Street, Bronx, New York 10452
Telephone: (718) 681-6120 Fax: (718) 681-6131

Principal
Nadine Kee-Foster

Assistant Principals
Shelley Debin
Gina Langley
Dawn Stevens

February 26th 2009

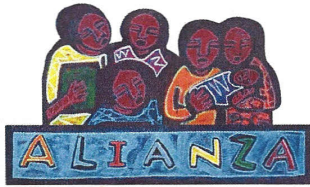
Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to recommend the Highbridge Community Life Center for a grant to undertake work on greenway development along the Harlem River. These park spaces provide much needed space for children and other community members, and they serve to link neighborhoods with poor access to green space (like Highbridge) to major parks and recreational destinations.

The progress of the Bronx River Alliance and Sustainable South Bronx shows the extent to which a dedicated staff member can catalyze community and political support for a project, and get shovels in the ground. A similar investment is needed along the Harlem River, where greenway development has lagged for lack of a community advocate with the time and resources to build and maintain momentum.

Our organization has worked with the Highbridge Community Life Center for many years, and time after time we witness their effectiveness as community organizers. Their ability to turn out residents to public meetings, to organize events for neighborhood youth and to work alongside broad coalitions of groups like our own is impressive. We seldom begin work on a Bronx initiative or event without first soliciting their input, and we consistently benefit from their on-the-ground outreach. They have an inexhaustible energy, and a unique grasp of their community, both of which are critical to seeing long-term projects implemented. I can think of no better leader for efforts on the Harlem River than the Highbridge Community Life Center, and strongly recommend you invest in them.

Sincerely,



ALIANZA DOMINICANA, INC.
MOSAIC Beacon School

The Beacon Center in Highbridge
1257 Ogden Avenue
Bronx, New York 10452
Phone 718-590-0101 Fax 718-590-1587

Funded by the New York City Department of Youth & Community Development

July 29, 2009

National Park Service
River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW /code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

To Whom It May Concern:

Alianza Dominicana, Inc. (Alianza) is a Non-Profit 501c3 organization that was established in 1982 as the very first non-profit to offer comprehensive services to the Dominican community, the largest immigrant group in New York State. Its mission is to affirm and support the value of community life by promoting health, education, cultural and economic opportunities that assure the development of children, youth and families. To accomplish this, Alianza annually provides services to more than fifteen thousand Dominican / Latino and African-American children, youth and adults living in Northern Manhattan and the West Bronx. Alianza Dominicana, Inc. is one of the largest Latino agencies in New York City and is considered the leading authority on Dominicans living in the US. Alianza provides more than thirty distinct programs, which offer comprehensive services that are interwoven to address critical aspects of an individual and community's development.

Alianza's MOSAIC Beacon Community Center is located in Highbridge in the North West Bronx located near the Harlem River. The MOSAIC Beacon partners with youth, families and public and private institutions to revitalize economically distressed neighborhoods. Our mission is to assist children, youth and families break the cycle of poverty and fulfill their potential as members of the global community.

We provide the following services to youth and families and schools:

- **Family Strengthening** programs provide multiple supports to parent and adult members of the community through home visitation, entitlement assistance and caretaker support services
- **Youth Development** services ensure proper development of adolescents and young adults through after school programs, AMB Ambassador Leadership Group and community service opportunities
- **Health and Mental Health** programs promote healthy physical and cognitive development through health plan enrollment, outpatient mental health services, Food Pantry distribution and HIV/AIDS services

- **Employment, Economic Opportunity and Community Revitalization** activities expand economic opportunity for low-income youth and adult residents through career readiness, job training, Summer Youth Employment Program, economic development and park rehabilitation projects
- **Child Development** services provide community children and their families with developmentally appropriate child care, summer day camp, sports camp and educational services
- **Cultural and Arts activities** provide workshops, classes, activities and events which promote diverse cultural awareness.

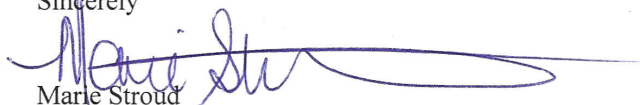
We support the application of the Harlem River Working Group (HRWG) to organize activities for Highbridge, Washington Heights and to restore the river. We are looking forward to when the following goals of the HRWG are completed:

- Organize regularly scheduled boat rides on the river.
- Organize regularly scheduled walks along the river banks and its connecting routes.
- Organize regular historical and educational trips with the local schools and communities.
- Advocate for the cleaning of the Harlem River to make it safer for recreation and activities in and along the river, including the closure or diversion of all or many of the active Combined Sewage Outputs (CSO).

The need for a person like Jerry Willis, New York Director of River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, as well as someone dedicated to working on Harlem River issues, especially given the wide range of projects that are ready to go, is essential.

We have asked to be placed on the mailing list of the group so we can participate in any and all activities to open up the waterfront to our constituency. This new group will work toward restoring the Harlem River; reconnecting the waterfront with the people; recreating the water's edge; and reinvigorating in-the-water recreational and commercial activities.

Sincerely



Marie Stroud
MOSAIC Beacon Program Director



Asociación de Provincias Dominicanas, Inc.
(ASOPRODOM)

Since 2001
asoprodom@yahoo.com

Pensando en los Demás

1435 Ogden Ave.
Bronx, N.Y. 10452
Tel./Fax: 1646-764-7946

July 28, 2009

National Park Service
River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

To Whom It May Concern:

Asociación de Provincias Dominicanas, Inc. (ASOPRODOM) is a non-profit organization that was established in September of 2001. We are located in the Bronx, New York. Our main goal is to improve conditions in our community through programs and services that give its poorest and neediest members the chance to improve their quality of life. Over the years, ASOPRODOM has implemented programs that have helped countless individuals. Among these are: the Program in American Citizenship and English Language, Candle-making and tailoring classes. ASOPRODOM has also organized events designed with the sole purpose of benefiting the community, such as: various Annual Health Clinics, an Immigration Workshop, a Youth Conference, and the collection of useful materials for victims of natural disasters in Latin America. ASOPRODOM also helps individuals with medical problems. In the past we have helped foreigners obtain free medical services in the United States, thus helping save their lives. In general, ASOPRODOM is an organization that works hard to create a better community and society.

AsoProDom supports the ongoing efforts of the Harlem River Working Group to revitalize the Harlem River and make it once again a favorable destination for everybody. We believe that the work being done by the HRWG is very critical to both the present and future of our community. We strongly urge you to support this organization through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program because HRWG is playing an important role in the development of the New York City Community. In the past we have received the support of this organization in the creation of new programs and events that have immensely helped the Bronx and its residents.

AsoProdom is very proud to be working with this organization towards building a better society.

Sincerely,

Victor N. Hiciano
Executive Director



The Bronx Council for Environmental Quality

Post Office Box 265

The Bronx, New York 10464-0265

www.bceq.org

President: Ira Charles Levenberg-Engel

July 21, 2009

National Park Service
River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

To Whom It May Concern:

The Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, (BCEQ) is a non-profit 501(c)3 membership organization located in NYC's only mainland borough — The Bronx. We are a diverse collection of individuals all seeking to leave our great grandchildren better air, land, and water quality than we have at present. We are teachers, community activists, health professionals — volunteer environmentalists. Incorporated since 1971, our mission is reflected in our statement of purpose: “The Bronx Council for Environmental Quality seeks to establish — as an Inherent Human Right — a sound, forward-looking environmental policy regarding an aesthetic, unpolluted, environment protecting a natural and historic heritage.”



We support the application of the HRWG to organize activities for the entire Bronx and to restore the river. As with The Bronx River NPS partnership, we will continue to encourage our members to join and/or walk along the Harlem River. We have already dedicated six of our last Annual Meetings to assist in the organization of the Harlem River Working Group. In addition, BCEQ was the project manager on the first phase of the Harlem River Brownfield's Opportunity Area New York State grant; and we have been awarded the next phase of the granting process.



We need Jerry Willis, New York Director of River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, to supplement the other grants working on Harlem River issues, as well as the wide range of construction projects that are ready. His work on the Bronx River renaissance is historic, and this challenge will be similar.

We maintain the mailing list of the group, and will continue to participate in any and all activities to open up the waterfront to our constituency.

Sincerely,

I.C. Levenberg-Engel

BCEQ President
718-548-3815

Friends of Brook Park

PO Box 801
Bronx, NY 10454
Phone: 646.648.4362
information@friendsofbrookpark.org:
www.friendsofbrookpark.org

National Park Service
River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

To Whom It May Concern,

As a part of the launching and anticipated growth and success of the Harlem River Working Group (HRWG), this letter is in support of the application of HRWG to work to obtain greater resources for our collective efforts.

Friends of Brook Park has been working in the Mott Haven and Port Morris communities to create waterfront access for over a decade. Our team leads canoe and kayak excursions all along the Harlem River, including it's Bronx Kill. We have led successful restoration efforts, including native plantings along the shore. We advance planning and rezoning efforts that consider the ecology and existing communities of the Harlem River. In addition, we introduce youth and adults to the wonders of the water by bike and walking tours.

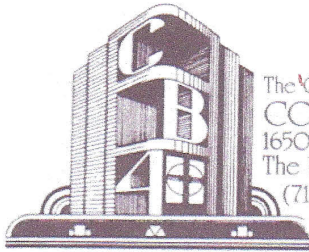
We look forward to greater collaboration with your agency and programs. It is important that federal resources be targeted towards decentralized, local, grass-roots efforts like those that constitute the HRWG. The HRWG will play an important role in ensuring that there will be equitable access and distribution of resources to a diverse array of stakeholders for a variety of important initiatives.

I look forward to your response and to be kept informed of the status of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Harry Bubbins
Director

Friends of Brook Park, Waterfront Revitalization, Urban-Rural Connections, Eco-Art House



The City of New York
COMMUNITY BOARD 4
1650 Selwyn Avenue Suites IIIA & IIIB
The Bronx, New York, 10457
(718) 299-0800 FAX (718) 294-7870
EMAIL: bx04@cb.nyc.gov

Ms. D. LEE EZELL
Board Chair

MR. JOSÉ RODRIGUEZ
District Manager

July 27, 2009

Steve Golden, Chief
Conservation Assistance Division
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Program
National Parks Service
15 State Street
Boston Massachusetts 02109

Dear Mr. Golden:

I write in support for the Harlem River Restoration Project application to the National Park Service funding and staff support for the Harlem River Working Group (HRWG) in the Bronx.

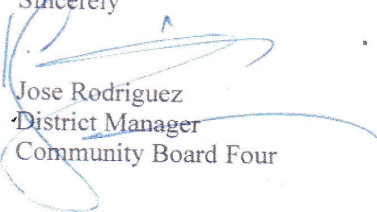
As part of the HRWG, our goal is to work toward restoring the Harlem River; reconnecting the waterfront with the people; recreating the water's edge; and reinvigorating in-the-water recreational and commercial activities. Our interest extends along the full length of the river's edge in the Bronx to include local parks and/or access points.

As District Manager of Community Board Four in the Southwest portion of the Bronx we are confronted with the challenge of urging our City Government to improve the river's natural resources and its linkage to the East River and Hudson River. The Harlem River waterfront has the potential to be a valuable destination for recreational, educational and again commercial use.

I support the application of the HRWG to organize activities for the entire Bronx and to restore the river. I believe that being able to retain someone dedicated to conservation and environmental issues to coordinate our goals is essential and paramount to our overall success.

On behalf of my fellow Harlem River Working Group colleagues I thank you in advance.

Sincerely


Jose Rodriguez
District Manager
Community Board Four

The Bridge Builders

Community Partnership Initiative

156 West 165th Street Bronx, New York 10452 phone: 718 681 2222 email: analizfg@yahoo.com

July 23, 2009

National Park Service
River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

To Whom It May Concern,

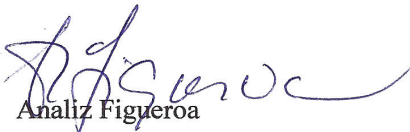
The Bridge Builders Community Partnership Initiative is a coalition of over 30 active organizations and 501c3 organizations, located or operating in the Bronx Community District Four, encompassing the neighborhoods of Mt Eden, Highbridge, East Concourse, West Concourse, and Concourse Village. Our main mission is to support healthy families, to work for the prevention of unnecessary child removals, and to provide counseling and services for families involved with the child welfare system.

Healthy families need access to adequate forms of recreation and outdoor activities. Unfortunately, while the Community Board 4 area has seen much development over the last few years, there has not been a comprehensive plan for uniting the communities with appropriate greenway access to the proposed parks. For this reason, we support new Harlem River Working Groups (HRWG) vision to organize activities for the entire Bronx and to restore the river. We are actively encouraging our member organizations to join and/or participate in the Harlem River Working Group.

It is clear why the newly formed HRWG would apply for the National Parks Services River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, because the expertise of this program and the role its New York City Representative, Jerry Lewis, has played in establishing other successful New York City coalitions, such as the Bronx River Alliance and the High Bridge Coalition. Certainly, the knowledge and experience of someone like Jerry Lewis is essential given the complexity and wide range of projects and goals for the working group.

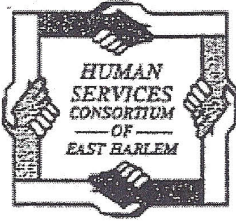
We have asked to be placed on the mailing list of the group so we can participate in any and all activities to open up the waterfront to our constituency.

Sincerely,



Analiz Figueroa

CPI Liaison



Human Services Consortium of East Harlem
c/o SCAN
LaGuardia Memorial House
307 East 116th Street
New York, NY 10035
Tel: 1212-534-7800
Fax 212, 6-83-2695

Member Organizations

Association to Benefit Children
Cardinal McCloskey Services
Child Welfare Organizing Project
Children's Aid Society
(East Harlem Center)
East Harlem Lupus Cooperative
East Harlem Tutorial
Good Shepherd Services
Harlem RBI
Harlem Community Law Office
(Legal Aid Society)
Little Sisters of the Assumption
Family Health Service
Mount Sinai Medical Center
North General Hospital
Palladia, Inc
(Dreitzer Women & Children's Center)
(HomeBase: Homeless Prevention Program)
SCAN LaGuardia Memorial House
Senior Health Partners
Settlement Health
STEPS/Incarcerated Mothers Program
(Edwin Gould)
Union Settlement Association
Violence Intervention Program
Yorkville Common Pantry

Affiliated Organizations

Administration for Children's Services
EH Council for Community Improvement
EH Bilingual Institute
EH Council for Human Services
Borikes Health Center
East Harlem Health Committee
East Harlem HIV Care Network
Legal Services for NY
Metropolitan Hospital Center
NYC Department of Education
Puerto Rican Family Institute
Richmond Home Need Services
Social Security Administration

Eric Canales
Lew Zuchman
Co-Coordinators

National Park Service

July 23, 2009

River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

1849 C Street, NW Code 2220

Washington, DC 20240

To Whom It May Concern,

The Human Services Consortium of the East Harlem is an alliance of over thirty organizations. The Consortium was organized more than twenty five years ago, bringing together providers of social services to deliver social care. The Human Services Consortium places an emphasis on the importance of partnering, networking, organizational accountability, and evidence based advocacy though working together to better service the community.

Healthy families need access to adequate forms of recreation and outdoor activities. Unfortunately, while the Community Board 4 area has seen much development over the last few years, there has not been a comprehensive plan for uniting the communities with appropriate greenway access to the proposed parks. For this reason, we support new Harlem River Working Groups (HRWG) vision to organize activities for the entire Bronx and to restore the river. We are actively encouraging our member organizations to join and/or participate in the Harlem River Working Group.

It is clear why the newly formed HRWG would apply for the National Parks Services River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, because the expertise of this program and the role its New York City Representative, Jerry Lewis, has played in establishing other successful New York City coalitions, such as the Bronx River Alliance and the High Bridge Coalition. Certainly, the knowledge and experience of someone like Jerry Lewis is essential given the complexity and wide range of projects and goals for the working group.

We have asked to be placed on the mailing list of the group so we can participate in any and all activities to open up the waterfront to our constituency.

Sincerely

Eric Canales
HSCEH Co Coordinator



2751 Grand Concourse • Bronx, NY 10468-3001 • Tel.: (718) 367-3200 • Fax: (718) 562-0131

July 27, 2009

National Park Service
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

To Whom It May Concern:

Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that works primarily in the Northwest Bronx. FBHC was formed in 1980 by community leaders to confront the housing crisis at the time. Over the years, our work has expanded to oversee the management of 95 buildings containing over 2000 affordable units.

Our work to stabilize the housing stock has enabled us to extend our resources and staff to focus on the environmental implications of our work. Consequently, green measures in our current portfolio include the incorporation of green building materials into a number of buildings and local parks. We believe a healthy environment is detrimental to the community's overall quality of life.

We support the application of the HRWG to organize activities for the Bronx and restore the river. As with the Bronx River NPS partnership, we will participate in community outreach encouraging participation in joining and/or walking along the Harlem River.

Jerry Willis, New York Director of the River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, has a reputable background in supplementing the goal for an environmentally responsible city, as demonstrated by his work on the Bronx River Renaissance. We are writing to encourage Mr. Willis to continue this support through supplementing grants that focus primarily on Harlem River issues, as well as the wide range of construction projects that are ready.

We appreciate your time and consideration in the review of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rosanna Viera' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rosanna Viera
Senior Project Manager

A NEIGHBORhood Housing Corporation



Fort Independence Park Neighborhood Association

Philip M. McDonnell, President | Karen Argenti and Lynn Schwarz, Vice Presidents
Tel. 718.543.2457 | Fax. 888.755.5598

Visit us on the web – www.fipna.org | fipna@fipna.org

July 21, 2009

National Park Service
River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

To Whom It May Concern:

The Fort Independence Park Neighborhood Association is a community association of homeowners, tenants, and cooperators who live in and around Giles and Cannon Place, Sedgwick Avenue, West 238th Street, and Fort Independence Street in the Bronx, located near the Harlem River. We are volunteer community activists dedicated to preserving and improving the quality of life for residents of our historic community.

We support the application of the HRWG to organize activities for the entire Bronx and to restore the river. If successful we would encourage our members to join and/or walk along the Harlem River. Many of our members have already attended the annual meetings on the Harlem River organized by the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality.

We need Jerry Willis, New York Director of River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, to supplement the other grants working on Harlem River issues, as well as the wide range of construction projects that are ready.

We have asked to be placed on the mailing list of the group so we can participate in any and all activities to open up the waterfront to our constituency.

Sincerely

Philip M. McDonnell

Philip M. McDonnell, President

HELEN DIANE FOSTER
COUNCIL MEMBER, 16TH DISTRICT

□ **DISTRICT OFFICE**
1377 JEROME AVENUE
BRONX, NY 10452
(718) 588-7500
FAX: (718) 588-7790

□ **CITY HALL OFFICE**
250 BROADWAY, ROOM 1770
NEW YORK, NY 10007
(212) 788-6856
FAX: (212) 788-7764

foster@council.nyc.nyu.us



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

CHAIR
PARKS & RECREATION

COMMITTEES
AGING
EDUCATION
GENERAL WELFARE
HEALTH
LOWER MANHATTAN REDEVELOPMENT
PUBLIC SAFETY

National Park Service
River Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington D.C. 20240

July 29, 2009

Dear National Park Service:

I am pleased to write this support letter for the Harlem River Working Group's application for funding and partnership with the National Park Service. My office has been a supporter of and active partner with this group from its inception.

We have had for many years a community and government campaign to reopen access of the waterfront to the community for educational, environmental, recreational, and economic development of the Harlem River. The highlight of this campaign so far has been to get the City to fund \$60 million to re-open the High Bridge, an architectural gem built in the 1840s and the first bridge in NYC, to bring water to Manhattan. I await the day when the youth of my community can walk across the High Bridge to the huge swimming pool on the other side of the High Bridge.

My office restored the High Bridge Park at a cost of more than a million dollars. I have also funded some \$400,000 to restore the grand step streets from the heights of my district down to the Harlem River. Further, I funded a park and a greenway that will stretch from the base of the High Bridge to the Roberto Clemente State Park. Although not yet complete, what a joy it was to see young people from the community hired in the summer to lead tours along the Harlem River.

Although there is much more to be done, I am most appreciative of how this campaign has brought together the community in partnership with government and environmental groups to build a movement to reopen access to the water for my Sixteenth Council District's residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen Diane Foster".

Helen Diane Foster



National Park Service
River Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

July 27, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Brandy Cochrane and I am the Program Director and founder of Friends of the Woods, a 501c3 organization under the fiscal sponsorship of City Park Foundation located in the Bronx. Friends of the Woods' mission is to shift the current physical conditions and negative community perceptions of University Woods through programming, advocacy and education and using the woodland as a way to strengthen the surrounding communities. Our organization provides programs for youth, adults and seniors that teaches them ecological education, instills leadership and community building skills, and provides arts and culture to our community which is mostly made up of low income minorities.

Organizing school trips and getting more people to see the potential and understand the history of the Harlem River is right in line with our group's goals. The HRWG plans to provide these types of programs and we would be very helpful in implementing some of them.

Friends of the Woods is a current member of the Harlem River Working Group and part of the education and outreach committees. We are currently assisting with the promotion of HRWG meetings and plan to do the same as events are scheduled. In addition to help with outreach, we plan to include HRWG activities in with our season's schedule. Our current workshops include instruction that teaches people about University Woods' relationship to the Harlem River. This type of information will continue to be included in our workshops. Friends of the Woods will also participate in HRWG collaborative event efforts, events that are scheduled on the same day as a way to expose community members to the organizations that exist along the Harlem River.

Friends of the Woods is currently on the Harlem River Working Group's mailing list and would like to be included in future mailings. We are interest to know about meetings and events that are happening on or around the Harlem River.

We are very excited to be a part of this group and believe in the power of working together as a community to improve our quality of life. Friends of the Woods fully supports this initiative and looks forward to receiving support from you as well.

Sincerely,

Brandy Cochrane, Founder, Program Director

University Woods--The natural escape you never knew existed in your own backyard!



July 23, 2009

National Park Service
River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

To Whom It May Concern:

The Friends of Van Cortlandt Park is a nonprofit that in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation is dedicated to the conservation and improvement of Van Cortlandt Park through education and stewardship programs. The Friends have grown to become Van Cortlandt Parks' primary free educational organization-- developing educational and stewardship programs for over 2,500 children and adults each year.

The Friends of Van Cortlandt Park supports the efforts of the Harlem River Working Group (HRWG) to obtain the support of the National Park Service. The Friends have supported and attended the BCEQ Harlem River Water Conferences and are very interested in being involved with the Working Group. We are especially excited to advocate for Putnam Trail, which runs through Van Cortlandt Park and will take walkers, hikers and bikers all the way to the Harlem River. We believe the HRWG is necessary to ensure that the Harlem River is protected for our current and future residents.

If you have any questions please contact me at 718-601-1460 or email christina@vancortlandt.org.

Sincerely,

Christina A. Taylor

Executive Director

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