

March 26, 2026

Julie Su, Deputy Mayor for Economic Justice
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC)
One Liberty Plaza, 165 Broadway, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10006

Dear Deputy Mayor Su,

On behalf of the Board of the Columbia St. Waterfront Association (CSWA) and the residents and businesses of the community we represent, I am writing to express our support of the actions requested by Assemblymembers Simon and Mitaynes and Council Members Hanif and Avilés in their letter dated March 23, 2026.

We are a new Association, incorporated in September 2025. The driving force to establish CSWA was the Brooklyn Marine Terminal Project (BMT). Our geographic boundaries are Atlantic Avenue to the north, Hamilton Avenue to the South, the BQE to the East, and the East River to the West. The northern part of the 122-acre BMT site falls within these boundaries as does the bulk of the 6,000 housing units projected in EDC's BMT Vision Plan.

Despite the massive impact this project will have on our neighborhood, we were denied any representation on the BMT Task Force when the EDC formed it in 2024. We were told this was because we did not have an association. Now we do, and we were able to secure a seat on the Advisory Task Force (which, per the abovementioned letter, has not met since October 2025). But the original Task Force had already approved the Vision Plan.

CSWA has participated actively in the scoping activities for the Draft Statement of Work. Our community members have many concerns about the environmental impact of this project. We have also awaited the results of the Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) with great anticipation.

Like our electeds, we were pleased to learn about the public meetings on the RFEI scheduled for this week. But we agree this is much too late to assess the results and incorporate aspects into our written comments by the March 31 deadline. I and other CSWA board members attended the meetings Tuesday and Wednesday. The presentations only amplified the need for more time, meetings, and details about the RFEIs. Specifically:

- 1. More residents and businesses will want to learn about the RFEI results as they prepare their DSOW scoping comments, beyond those who could attend the two sessions this week.** From my count, about 150 people in total joined the two sessions, with no more than 120 being residents of impacted communities (CSW, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, and Red Hook). This is not surprising given the short notice and the timing, in the middle of rush hour for commuters and dinners for families.

2. EDC presented one-slide summaries of each of the six responses from port operators, and half-page summaries of responses from other entities (cruise operators, service providers, potential tenants). **EDC's summaries of the RFEI responses were cursory and left out key details that the community needs to understand and respond to them.** For example, EDC stressed respondents' agreement that 60 acres of port space is adequate, but gave no reasoning for those positions. Additionally, EDC refused to share the full RFEI responses - even though one of the port operators has offered to do so.

3. **Several of the RFEI respondents presented new ideas that could trigger environmental impact - but absent details from the RFEI, the community cannot provide meaningful DSOW comments on them.** For example, one suggested creating a drone facility. This raises concerns about aerial noise, in a neighborhood already besieged by helicopters overhead. Another potential port tenant is interested in storing and shipping salt. We in CSW remember salt blowing off huge piles stored on the port grounds and the community's efforts to shut that facility down.

4. **Finally, an extended DSOW comment period and more public meetings would provide an opportunity to identify and assess potential alternatives to the BMT Vision Plan - an important part of the EIS.** The DSOW committed to evaluating a port-only alternative. At this week's sessions, EDC did discuss the City Club/Tom Fox port-only proposal. But it did so with critiques that Fox was only able to respond to on Wednesday. Other alternatives exist that the EIS should evaluate.

Deputy Mayor, we in the Columbia Street Waterfront will face the Vision Plan's brunt of environmental impact. We ask that our community be given the time, details, and forums we need to:

- Assess the results of the RFEI,
- Objectively review the City Club plan and others, and
- Provide the commentary to ensure the scope of this assessment is commensurate with the magnitude of the impact.

Like Assemblymembers Simon and Mitaynes, and Council Members Hanif and Avilés, we look forward to collaborating with you on the future of the BMT. It's vital to all of us who love this community that our voices are heard.

Sincerely,

Randall Gordon, President
Columbia Street Waterfront Association, Inc.

cc: Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon, Assemblymember Marcela Mitaynes, City Council Member Alexa Avilés, City Council Member Shahana Hanif, Community Board 6