

Fix the Manhattan Bridge & Remove the Scaffolding ASAP
Brooklyn Bridge Park DUMBO

August 17, 2018

The Honorable Stephen T. Levin
Council Member, 33rd District
New York City Council
410 Atlantic Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11217

Subject: Request to Fix the Manhattan Bridge & Remove the Scaffolding ASAP – Brooklyn Bridge Park DUMBO

Dear Council Member Levin,

The undersigned residents are seeking your office's help to permanently protect, restore & reopen the northern section of Brooklyn Bridge Park located under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass.

As you are probably aware, on March 1, 2018, the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (the "BBPDC") closed the area of the Park under the Manhattan Bridge driven by concerns of debris falling from the bridge structure.

The BBPDC subsequently erected a sidewalk bridge and scaffolding structure which decks over multiple pathways, public sidewalks, a dog park and rock climbing area. Lawns and a beach in the area are unprotected and remain closed to the public. Photos of this section of the Park are enclosed herewith.

While we appreciate BBPDC's efforts to proactively address safety concerns within the Park, the Park experience has been severely degraded as a result of the temporary protection measures. Brooklyn's award-winning park is now full of unsightly scaffolding, which blocks access to light and air and eliminates Park amenities. In addition, the temporary protection measures isolate the residents and businesses within the northern Dumbo and Vinegar Hill neighborhoods from the rest of the Park and local community to the south.

We ask for your office's assistance and support in working with the Department of Transportation to address the problem. The DOT should take measures to prevent any falling debris at its source, from the deck of the Manhattan Bridge. Ground-based protection measures – whether temporary or permanent – unfairly burden the Park for a problem DOT should take responsibility for remediating.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter for DUMBO and the Park community at large.

Cc New York City Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation Commissioner Mitchel Silver
New York City Department of Transportation Commissioner Polly Trottenberg
New York State Assembly Member Jo Anne Simon
New York State Senator Brian Kavanagh
Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams
Brooklyn Community Board 2 Chairperson Shirley McCrae
Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporate President Eric Landau
Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy Executive Director Nancy Webster
DUMBO BID Executive Director Alexandria Sica
DUMBO Action Committee Mallory Kasdan and Melissa Prober

Photos:







