

410 Atlantic Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11217
(718) 875-5200

www.lincolcrestler.nyc
district33@council.nyc.gov



Committees
Criminal Justice | Education |
Environmental Protection | General
Welfare | Governmental Operations |
Public Housing | Parks and Recreation |
Transportation and Infrastructure

August 24, 2022

Andrew Kimball
President & CEO, New York City Economic Development Corporation
165 Broadway, 14th floor
New York, NY 10006

Re: India Pier Ferry service, Greenpoint Brooklyn

Dear Mr. Kimball,

As representatives of the Greenpoint community we are deeply disappointed in the mismanagement displayed in repairing the India Pier Ferry infrastructure. The extended and repeated delays in construction by the private owner of the pier are unacceptable. We have lost confidence that this or any pier should be privately-owned for purposes of our already heavily city-subsidized ferry service. Therefore, we are asking that a city-owned pier, such as the WNYC transmitter pier, be reconsidered for immediate restoration of service moving forward and that a long term City asset be identified for Greenpoint ferry service.

Since the pier was closed in May 2021 due to unsafe shifting piles on the floating ferry landing, there has been a succession of feet-dragging, finger-pointing, and poor communication of unrealistic and unreliable timelines surrounding the planned completion date for this project.

In late February of this year Lendlease announced that due to a NYS Department of Environmental Conservation moratorium on in-water construction, work would finally begin in May 2022, with an expected 4-6 week duration - even though work should have happened in advance of the seasonal moratorium. By April 20, 2022, after multiple changes in expected completion dates, Lendlease committed to August of 2022 for a full return of ferry service and continued to tout this date publicly as recently as August 2nd. It has since become clear that that was not a realistic date as it did not allow for the several weeks EDC and Hornblower need to test the landing post construction completion. Now, Lendlease reports that service will return in late-October/early-November: an optimistic timeline based on existing drilling set-backs and safety and scheduling requirements post-construction.

Lendlease has not demonstrated the necessary urgency in returning ferry service to Greenpoint, an area bereft of transportation options. Our community cannot trust that ferry service will return in "late-October/early-November" anymore than the previous timelines that Lendlease has failed to meet.

How can Greenpoint residents and ferry riders citywide have confidence in the reliability of service moving forward after such severe mismanagement?

We respectfully ask that NYCEDC closely examines the agreement with Lendlease, more aggressively monitor and manage the remaining construction work, and immediately explore alternative ferry service access into Greenpoint at a publicly-owned pier. Should you have any questions about this issue, do not hesitate to contact me at district33@council.nyc.gov or call our office at 718-875-5200.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Lincoln Restler in black ink.

Council Member Lincoln Restler
33rd Council District

Handwritten signature of Emily Gallagher in black ink.

State Assembly Member Emily Gallagher
50th Assembly District