

OUR OUTER HARBOR

WNYEA/PPG: 617 Main Street, #300, Buffalo, NY 14203

November 20, 2020

To: Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation
95 Perry Street, Suite 500, Buffalo NY 14203
Via email: Landprojectcomments@esd.ny.gov

Attn: Mr Steven Ranalli

November 20, 2020

Dear Mr Ranalli, Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation, Empire State Development;

We respectfully request that the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation *extend the deadline for public comment for the recently announced (November 5, 2020) **Buffalo Outer Harbor Civic and Land Use Improvement Project General Project Plan (GPP)** from December 9, 2020, to January 15, 2021 and that the public hearing scheduled for December 3, 2020 be rescheduled to a date closer to January 15, 2021.*

As you may know the Our Outer Harbor Coalition has been long involved in helping the public to better understand and advocate for appropriate use of public space on the Outer Harbor. We have held numerous and informative community meetings since our founding in 2015, and represent over 1,500 active individuals, organizations, and outer harbor user groups including Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, the League of Women Voters, The Western New York Environmental Alliance, 21st Century Park, Partners for the Public Good, The Friends of Times Beach Nature Preserve, the Wellness Institute of Greater Buffalo, Preservation Buffalo Niagara, the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Trout Unlimited, Sierra Club Niagara Group and many others. Link: Who we are: <http://www.ourouterharbor.org/who-we-are.html>

After nearly one year of relatively quiet public engagement by the ECHDC during the Covid-19 Pandemic, we were surprised by your November 5, 2020 release of the GPP and the short time-frame before the announced Public Hearing (December 3, 2020) and final public comment deadline of December 9, 2020.

We ask for this extension to allow the public more time to review the proposals noting that the month between release and final comments falls during the recent and exhausting federal and local election and campaign, the 2nd wave of the pandemic and an orange alert, and includes an important end of the year holiday period.

Given these conditions and the importance of this final plan, we respectfully ask for this extension.

Signed,

Lynda Schneekloth
Jay Burney
Margaret Wooster
Jessie Fisher
Melissa Wicsherath

For the Our Outer Harbor Coalition

Copy:

Empire State Development Corporation, Howard Zemsky, Chair Emeritus,
Governor Andrew Cuomo
Congressman Brian Higgins
New York State Senator Elect Sean Ryan
New York State Senator Pat Burke

Buffalo Common Council

Attn: Buffalo Common Council Member (s)
Christopher Scanlon, South District/President Protempore
Darius Pridgeon, Council President
David A Rivera, Majority Leader
Mitch Nowakowski

Erie County Legislature

Attn: April Baskin, Chairwoman
Tim Meyers, Majority Leader
Joseph C. Lorigio, Minority Leader