

June 1, 2007

Speaker Christine Quinn
New York City Council
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Commissioner Emily Lloyd
New York City Department of Environmental Protection
59-17 Junction Boulevard
Flushing, New York 11373

Dear Speaker Quinn and Commissioner Lloyd:

On behalf of the Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee or Committee) and pursuant to Local Law 71, as amended by Introduction 376, we respectfully submit the attached report, which contains the Advisory Committee's final recommendations for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)'s *Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan* (Plan).

As you know, DEP submitted its *Draft Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan* (Draft Plan) in March 2007. While the Draft Plan demonstrated the considerable dedication and skill of the agency staff working on this project, it included neither a proposed set of actions (rather it set forth an array of possible actions still under consideration) nor an implementation process. As a result, the Advisory Committee believes that it has not been able to fulfill adequately its statutory responsibility to provide recommendations and comments on the Plan. Although we requested the opportunity to review and comment on another draft – a more complete draft Plan – and an extension of the law's timelines to allow this to happen, this request has not yet been acted on. Accordingly, we are submitting our recommendations in order to meet the existing timelines in the law. The Advisory Committee, however, reiterates its request that we be provided the formal opportunity to comment on a version of the Plan that contains both a set of specific proposals and a process for making them a reality, *i.e.*, an implementation plan. As things currently stand, the Advisory Committee intends, on our own initiative, to supplement the attached recommendations following DEP's submission of the Plan in October 2007.

Further, based on our review of the Draft Plan, the Advisory Committee is concerned that the final Plan will fall short of what Jamaica Bay requires and deserves. Accordingly, we have made a concerted effort in the attached report to prioritize and describe in adequate detail what we believe to be the essential components of an adequate Plan. To summarize, the Committee believes that the following five measures must be included in the Plan for short-term implementation, *i.e.*, next several years: (1) an aggressive Jamaica Bay nitrogen control strategy, (2) a comprehensive stormwater "best management practices" (BMP) program throughout the Jamaica Bay watershed/sewershed, (3) a habitat protection and restoration program targeting the bay's peripheral tidal wetlands and upland buffer areas, including their immediate protection from development, (4) an expansion of efforts to restore the bay's interior saltmarshes, and (5) a comprehensive science program for the bay. Further, the Plan must include a detailed implementation plan to include, as required by Local Law 71, specific goals and interim and final milestones for both the goals and the Plan's measures.

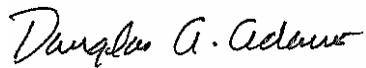
In our view, this represents an extraordinary opportunity for the city – which is fortunate enough to have a unit of the National Park Service within its borders – to craft an effective watershed plan to rescue this great ecological resource. Not only does Jamaica Bay warrant such an effort, but it would serve as a model for other cities and waterbodies, and would represent a lasting legacy for DEP and the city. We

continue to look forward to working together to craft a Plan that will take full advantage of this opportunity.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brad Sewell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brad Sewell
Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan Advisory Committee Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Doug Adamo". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a prominent "D" and "A".

Doug Adamo
Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan Advisory Committee Co-Chair