

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BID represents residents

To the editor:

Re: "Exposing the dirty facts behind the Soho BID plan" (Talking Point by Peter Davies, July 28)

As a residential condominium owner at 40 Mercer St. and also a member of the Broadway Soho Business Improvement District Steering Committee, I support the BID as the best way to make Soho a more livable neighborhood. A BID allows residents like me, businesses and others to work together to address community issues and to provide services, such as sidewalk cleaning, which Broadway desperately needs.

By law, the BID board of directors must represent each property-owner group, as well as resident and commercial tenants, along with government and community board representatives providing oversight. As one of the 146 residential condo owners living on Broadway between Houston and Canal Sts., I look forward to ensuring that the residential perspective is always strongly considered during the decision-making process.

I and the other resident condo owners each pay \$1 per year in BID assessments — one dollar. And each of the 14 residential co-operative properties will pay that same \$1 per year.

We, the residents of the Broadway Soho BID, have participated in the BID-forming process, and the BID Steering Committee has responded to the concerns of residents — so why do opponents say this is a takeover by big real estate developers?

The BID proposal is good for residents. While the commercial property owners would be paying almost 100 percent of the BID's proposed \$550,000 budget, I am confident that residents will benefit. Let's examine the facts. Let's stop living in the past and decide to address Broadway the way it is today — and make it better for tomorrow.

Let's support the Broadway Soho BID.

Alan Ballinger

BID will benefit us all

To the editor:

Re: "Revised BID prop still hot" (news article by Aline Reynolds, Aug. 3)

I have a unique perspective of the BID since I have been a Soho resident for nearly a decade and am the vice president of a company that has significant investments in the neighborhood. I am writing you this letter on behalf of myself, all of my Soho residential neighbors and the businesses throughout the neighborhood, since we all need the Soho BID.

Our company, Aurora Capital, owns and manages several of the largest retail spaces on Broadway, including the stores occupied by Armani Exchange, Forever 21, Hollister and Victoria's Secret, which are all located within the proposed Broadway Soho BID.

Our building at 568 Broadway, located at the northeast corner of Prince St. is one of

highest annual BID assessments, we support this worthwhile opportunity for owners, businesses and residents alike, to work together for a better neighborhood.

As one of the 280 property owners working on Broadway between Houston and Canal Sts., I am aware that I and other commercial owners will fund almost 100 percent of the BID budget to provide services and improvements to the BID area. The 146 residential condo owners and the 14 residential co-op buildings along Broadway will each pay \$1 per year in BID assessments. Regardless of who pays what, we all benefit from the BID plan.

With ACE absent from the street, I worry about the trickle-down effect of the dirty sidewalks on Soho's Broadway and its future. How long will the thousands of workers, visitors, shoppers and residents tolerate an unattractive environment? This coming together of so much activity gives the street energy and provides the financial support for each and every Broadway property (commercial and residential). At the same time, it must be managed to everyone's benefit; it cannot be left to unravel on its own to the detriment of all within and beyond the BID area boundaries.

The BID is where we begin as a diverse group of neighbors who need to be acquainted with one another, to stay informed and to be actively involved with our neighborhood.

We should all support the Broadway Soho BID.

Jared Epstein

Epstein is vice president, Aurora Capital Associates

Stupidi-Tea

To the Editor:

For this whole debt-ceiling mess I squarely blame the Tea Party — Stupidi-Tea, Duplici-Tea and Infantili-Tea! — and the Republicans they've dumbed down, Boehner, McConnell and Cantor. With no revenue, only cuts, and none for the rich — how is that "balanced"? Here are two balancing ideas: 1) The Americans First Tax: When Big Business ships jobs overseas (which is "unpatriotic") tax them those jobs' American salaries plus all benefits. 2) Gabrielle's Tax: hike taxes on guns, bullets, clips, etc., but make gun safety devices tax-free.

J. Andrew Smith

Letters policy

Downtown Express welcomes letters to The Editor. They must include the writer's first and last name, a phone number for confirmation purposes only, and any affiliation that relates directly to the letter's subject matter. Letters should be less than 300 words. Downtown Express reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity, civility or libel.

Hudson's waves causing havoc at South Cove

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from the land to a concave deck that arches over the river. Deliberately placed pilings suggest the piers that once lined the Hudson River waterfront before cruise ships were replaced by airplanes and commercial shipping migrated to other parts of the harbor.

However, one important element of Miss' design, a ramp on the northern periphery of South Cove that descends from the level of the esplanade to the water, has proven to be an expensive headache.

"Because of the wave action and the natural current of the Hudson, the South Cove quay collects large pieces of debris that continually become trapped underneath," Battery Park City Authority President Gayle Horwitz explained at a recent B.P.C.A. board of directors meeting.

The Hudson's fierce tides and currents have necessitated replacing the deck every five years at a cost of approximately \$70,000. Another \$8,000 a year has been spent repairing and retightening damaged deck boards. In addition, the stainless steel screws that support the deck have deteriorated because of frequent removal and reinstallation.

Rather than continuing to make piecemeal repairs, the B.P.C.A. has decided to replace the ramp completely. At a cost of just under \$500,000, the Authority has engaged the firm of Simpson and Brown to do the



Downtown Express photo by Terese Loeb Kreuzer

On Aug. 9, Mary Miss, the chief designer of South Cove in Battery Park City, revisited the project, which was built between 1984 and 1987.

job, which will take around seven weeks to finish. Work will begin in the fall.

Water levels in the Hudson have risen since South Cove was completed in 1987, said Horwitz. Now the quay needs to be raised above the mean high water level in order to protect it from further damage. In addition, a new electrical system will be installed.

"We have numerous lighting problems including outages and that creates public

safety issues," Horwitz said. "We have many phone calls from the community about lights being out in that area."

Miss is philosophical about the changes. She said that she deliberately placed the ramp low so that "people could be close to the water and get a sense of the river — not just have that distant view that you have when you're on the rest of the esplanade — but that very thing I had wanted as a positive thing has turned out to be just a nuisance for

maintenance."

Miss does not think that the alterations will significantly compromise what she had in mind. South Cove was the work of three people. Taking off from Miss' vision, landscape architect Susan Child chose the plantings and Stanton Eckstut, the principal planner and designer of Battery Park City's esplanade, integrated it with the rest of the Battery Park City waterfront. But Miss was the primary force behind the work, which took three years to build.

She said that it was of great importance in her career because of its scale. "I started doing projects in New York in the late sixties and this was my first opportunity to do one on a permanent scale," she said. "South Cove was a chance to work in the public realm and actually do something that can affect the lives of New Yorkers. As I went forward, you might presume that there would be multiple opportunities like that, but that was very rare. One of the things this has led me to is trying to understand how an artist can work in the public realm on a much more modest scale but still engage people."

Miss lives in Tribeca and visits South Cove often. "The thing that been really nice for me is that I can see it being used and how it continues to be used," she said. "And the way that it's maintained is just exceptional. I couldn't have hoped that any other project I've ever done or will do will be maintained like the South Cove."

Fireworks Spectacular!

Enjoy baseball and stunning fireworks all summer long with the Staten Island Yankees!

By Joe Ricciutti
President, Staten Island Yankees

Did you know that you can see fireworks all summer long, right in your backyard?

The Staten Island Yankees have an idea for you, and all you have to do is head SOUTH.

WHO ARE THE SI YANKEES?

We're the Short Season Single-A Affiliate of the New York Yankees. Our stadium, Richmond County Bank Ballpark, is just a short ride away from downtown Manhattan on the FREE Staten Island Ferry (next to Battery Park). We're known for having the best view of the New York City skyline that you'll find anywhere.

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For as little as \$15, you can get your ticket to an exciting baseball game. But that's not all.

Every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday will feature incredible postgame fireworks. That's 7 more nights of action-packed baseball and postgame fireworks! Plus, kids 12 and under get to run the bases after each game!

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Looking for fun things to do with your friends and family? Find 10 or more people and you can take part in our famous All-You-Can-Eat program. You'll get a game ticket, all-you-can-eat food and drinks, a limited edition Staten Island Yankees hat, and dazzling postgame fireworks—all for just \$20! It doesn't get much better than that!

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Call (718) 720-9265, chat live with a ticket representative on siyanks.com, or email tickets@siyanks.com to get your tickets now!



STATEN ISLAND YANKEES 2011 FIREWORKS NIGHTS

Date	Opponent
Saturday, July 30	Jamestown Jammers
Friday, August 5	Brooklyn Cyclones
Friday, August 12	Auburn Doubledays
Saturday, August 13	Auburn Doubledays
Thursday, August 25	Lowell Spinners
Thursday, September 1	Vermont Lake Monsters