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MINUTES OF THE BATTERY PARK CITY AUTHORITY  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE  
SOUTH BATTERY PARK CITY RESILIENCY PROJECT  
PUBLIC HEARING

MAY 19 - 6:00 P.M.

Held Virtually Via Zoom  
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B E F O R E:

B.J. JONES, President & Chief Executive Officer  
GWEN DAWSON, Vice President, Real Property  
CLAUDIA FILOMENA, Director of Capital Projects  
NORA MADONICK, Chief Executive Officer and  
Lead Strategist at Arch Street  
Communications

P U B L I C     S P E A K E R S:

NAME	PAGE
GONZALO CRUZ	16
RACHEL DENCKER	35
RENE DUCKER	37
JOSEPH SMITH	53
WENDY CHAPMAN	53

## P U B L I C   S P E A K E R S :

NAME	PAGE
BRITNI EREZ	55
GABRIELLE AJAMI	58
ELYSE BUXBAUM	60
ELIJAH HUTCHINSON	63
BRIAN ROBINSON	68
STACY PENNEBAKER	70s
CHRISTOPHER MARTE	72
ALICE BLANK	75
MS. VEGA	80
MASHI BLECH	80
BEJAL SHAH	84

## PUBLIC HEARING

MS. MADONICK: Welcome. Thank you for attending the public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the South Battery Park City Resiliency Project. The Battery Park City Authority appreciates your interest in the project and your participation in tonight's hearing. Tonight's hearing is being recorded, and any comments made tonight will be included in the project's official records. My name is Nora Madonick from Arch Street Communications and I'll be facilitating tonight's hearing.

Tonight we're joined by B.J. Jones and Gwen Dawson from Battery Park City Authority, as well representatives of the project team. Rene Ducker and Rachel Dencker from AECOM, which prepared the DEIS, will give a brief presentation about the project and the DEIS.

In the virtual format of

## PUBLIC HEARING

tonight's hearing, the presentation will cover the same information that BPCA would have shared at an in-person public hearing. But tonight's comment process will be slightly different. I'll go over the comment process shortly.

Materials related to the project, including the DEIS, are available on BPCA's website at [bpca.ny.gov](http://bpca.ny.gov) on the Resiliency and Sustainability page. The public review and comment period on this DEIS began May 4th, 2022, and will end on June 3, 2022.

You may comment on the DEIS in the following ways: You can make a verbal comment tonight. Please note BPCA will not be providing any responses to comments or questioning this evening.

Each person who is registered to comment tonight will have one opportunity to speak for up to three

## PUBLIC HEARING

minutes. Questions and comments received today will be addressed in the final Environmental Impact Statement.

If time allows tonight, we may be able to hear additional comments from those who did not preregister. If you have not registered to speak but you wish to comment tonight, please enter your name, your email and your address in the QA option of the Zoom webinar. We will hear comments in the order in which commenters post their interest in speaking.

Other ways to submit your comments: You can mail written comments to Claudia Filomena, BPCA's Director of Capital Projects at 200 Liberty Street, 24th floor, New York, New York, 10281; or you can email Claudia at [claudia.filomena@bpca.ny.gov](mailto:claudia.filomena@bpca.ny.gov).

Comments made and questions

PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 raised during tonight's public  
3 hearing will be addressed in the  
4 final Environmental Impact Statement  
5 which is expected to be released in  
6 summer 2022.

7 Can we go to the next slide,  
8 please.

9 After a brief presentation  
10 about the project and the DEIS, we  
11 will open up the hearing for public  
12 comment, and at that time I will go  
13 over the process we will follow for  
14 commenting in detail. But at this  
15 time, I'd like to turn things over to  
16 B.J. Jones, President and CEO of  
17 Battery Park City Authority for  
18 introductory comments. B.J.?

19 MR. JONES: Great. Thank you,  
20 Nora.

21 Tonight is another important  
22 step in our resiliency efforts.  
23 We've made lot of progress on climate  
24 adaptation, ranging from the  
25 restoration work after Hurricane

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1  
2 Sandy and completion of new  
3 resiliency measures at the ball  
4 fields, to important policy and  
5 planning advancements to both lay the  
6 ground work for additional and  
7 necessary resiliency measures, as  
8 well as to fight climate change  
9 proactively through our  
10 sustainability efforts. But this is  
11 not enough.

12 Next slide.

13 Battery Park City is vulnerable  
14 as a coastal community, even more so  
15 now as storms are getting more severe  
16 and frequent. We are planning for  
17 worse than Hurricane Sandy. Recent  
18 data from Colorado State University,  
19 which has issued forecasts of  
20 Atlantic Basin hurricane activity for  
21 over 37 years, make it even clearer  
22 that we can not afford to be  
23 complacent. Their forecast for 2022  
24 hurricane activity is above average  
25 for the seventh year in a row, an

PUBLIC HEARING

alarming trend.

Next slide.

This shows the potential inundation we can expect locally as the result of a hundred year storm. You can see why we need to take urgent action to protect lives, homes, schools, public spaces, jobs, infrastructure, and more in Battery Park City and beyond.

Next slide.

We've conducted numerous public sessions over the last several years on this project and have actively engaged stakeholders on our ridiculous efforts since 2017. And we appreciate the partnership of the Community Board in this effort, particularly the Battery Park City and Environmental Protection Committees, as well as other stakeholders from the neighborhood.

We've also held many town hall meetings of our own. Our

PUBLIC HEARING

presentations and meetings are all online, including recordings, as well as reporters and designs and more.

Next slide.

This work also requires incredibly close collaboration with City and State partners. We can't do this without their help, and we appreciate your interests and your comments this evening.

Thank you. And Nora, I'll now turn it back to you.

MS. MADONICK: Thank you, B.J. I'm going to turn things over to Rachel Dencker of AECOM. Rachel, would you like to take over?

MS. DENCKER: Oh, sorry. Hi, I'm Rachel Dencker. Thank you all for participating today and allowing us to introduce you to this important New York City project.

I'm Rachel Dencker, Senior Project Manager for the AECOM design team.

## PUBLIC HEARING

We would like to begin by providing an overview of the Battery Park City Authority Resiliency Projects, and then focusing our conversation on the South Battery Park City project.

So looking at the screen, you can see on the northern side we have the Battery Park City Ball Field Resiliency Project there in gray, and then if you look further north, you'll see that the original line which runs all the way down the western side of Manhattan is the Northwest Battery Park City Resiliency Project. It then connects to our South Battery Park City Resiliency Project there in gray, which we'll now focus our conversation on.

The South Battery Park City Project represents one of several projects that are within the overall Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency

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Master Plan. The South Battery Park Resiliency Project is being designed to provide flood risk reduction within the project area for the current hundred year floor, increased intensity, and frequency of rainfall, coastal surge, and predicted sea level rise.

The South Battery Park Resiliency Project is also being designed with adaptability for the 2050 hundred year storm event at such time as the Northwest Battery Park Resiliency Project is completed and a tie in between the two projects is created.

Please note that the project utilizes the same design criteria as other New York City flood resiliency projects such as ESCR and BMCR.

The project will be receiving FEMA accreditation. This accreditation is directly from FEMA, and confirms the specified flood risk

## PUBLIC HEARING

reduction is met.

Next slide.

The purpose and need of today's project is to provide a reliable coastal flood control system to provide risk reduction to property, residence and assets within the vicinity of South Battery Park City in response to the designed storm event. It is to protect and preserve, to the maximum extent practicable, open space resources and opportunities to view and interact with Manhattan's water front, particularly in Wagner Park, Pier A Plaza and the Battery, and avoid or minimize disruption to existing below and above ground infrastructure from flood events.

Next slide.

It's also important for us to remind you of what the existing topography in Lower Manhattan looks like. So in this slide you'll see a

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range of colors that demonstrates the surface elevation of the existing topography of the site. I want to point out to you the lowest topography, specifically in Wagner Park, which you'll notice is in pink, and it is right at the tip at a plus seven foot surface elevation. And then the other very important elevation to make everybody aware of is the plus four, which is in Pier A Plaza, there in purple.

Next slide.

Another important aspect for everybody to also understand is the coastal modelling for our 2050 condition. So on the left-hand side you'll see what current conditions look like today. So in turquoise, what that's showing is the surface elevation of roughly about six to seven feet in elevation on the left-hand side. Then in the 2050 hundred year storm event with sea

## PUBLIC HEARING

level rise, you'll see full inundation of the area. In orange you'll see the whole area is completely inundated with an elevation of anywhere between 13 to 15 feet in elevation.

Next slide.

So once we were able to conclude our coastal modelling and analysis, we were able to understand the design flood elevations that were required to meet our flood mitigation. In order to do that, we needed to start at First Place.

So if you notice on the northern most portion of this where Rene is pointing out, we have two flip-up deployables, the first one that goes across First Place that then connects to that northwestern area of the Museum of Jewish Heritage that then connects to our glass top flood wall that goes around the Museum of Jewish Heritage.

## PUBLIC HEARING

And then we need in the Wagner Park area to meet the DFEs, we did need to elevate this section by 10 to 12 feet due to the DFEs. And we're going to bury the flood walls which will be constructed beneath the raised park, maximizing the protected open space within that park.

We then connect to a series of flip-up deployables that span across Pier A Plaza. We then connect to an exposed flood wall that then ties into a bermed flood wall.

Next slide.

And here is a slide that shows the five South Battery Park City Resiliency Project segments as defined in the DEIS, specifically starting on the west side or the north side, we have First Place, and then moving east we go to the Museum of Jewish Heritage, Wagner Park, eastward to Pier A Plaza, and then the Battery bikeway.

## PUBLIC HEARING

In addition we also have interior drainage improvements as part of the project which we will discuss a little bit later on.

And with that I'm going to hand it over to Gonzalo Cruz who's our lead landscape designer. Thank you.

MR. CRUZ: Thank you, Rachel. So what we've done for you guys today is to prepare series of walkthroughs that describe the experiences of the park, as well as the performative components associated with flood infrastructure and place-making.

So what we're going to do -- we have about six animations describing the physical environment for Wagner Park, the pavilion, the Pier A inlet, and the Pier A Plaza, the Battery. And we hope that you get a really clear understanding on how the physical manifestation of all these components come into play.

Now, we've done our best to

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 ensure that the transition of these  
3 animation come through without any  
4 issues or problems. So what I  
5 recommend is that you turn off your  
6 videos just to ensure that you can be  
7 transmitted, you have the best  
8 experience watching the video. But  
9 if you happen to run into a problem,  
10 Battery Park City -- the Battery Park  
11 City Authority will be making these  
12 videos available online as early as  
13 tomorrow. So no need to worry if  
14 there are any glitches on your right  
15 with the transmission.

16 And with that I'd like to start  
17 the walkthroughs. I'm going to share  
18 my screen and turn off my video. Let  
19 me see -- please let me know if you  
20 can see my screen. Yes? Perfect,  
21 excellent, thank you.

22 So we're going to start with  
23 the Museum of Jewish Heritage in  
24 Wagner Park. So for each of the  
25 animations we put together a diagram

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 that describes the sequence in which  
3 we're walking through. As you can  
4 see, for the most part, this  
5 animation describes the experience  
6 along the waterfront, as well as the  
7 practices of putting into play for  
8 flood infrastructure.

9 We're starting with the Museum  
10 of Jewish Heritage. On the left you  
11 see the flood infrastructure being  
12 made of flood wall that has a  
13 concrete base, and the majority of it  
14 sitting on top of that concrete base  
15 is a series of glass panels providing  
16 and maximizing veracity to the Museum  
17 of Jewish Heritage, while the  
18 concrete bottom is actually being  
19 screened by lots of plantings to  
20 continue to invoke the sense of place  
21 that we currently have.

22 As we move into the esplanade,  
23 we immediately see Wagner Park on the  
24 left. Moving through the esplanade  
25 we continue to have a very wide

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esplanade for maximum experience.

Just for reference, Battery Park City has painted one of the light poles to show what the level of the height of the intervention will be for Wagner Park. But I just wanted to clarify that the height of intervention is not actually happening on the waterfront itself, but it's happening on the park behind the esplanade as it moves away to various levels.

Due to the need to meet the projected DFE and for coastal surge, the park is being raised between 10 and 12 feet in elevation.

Here is right at the center of the park in front of our social seatings, we continue to have the striking views of the Statue of Liberty.

As we continue to walk south, we enter -- we find the Pier A inlet to the right. The Pier A inlet

## PUBLIC HEARING

brings an opportunity for a new waterfront marine and habitat education for the community. This design converts an existing concrete relieving platform and brick-wrapped edge to a terrace condition that improves habitat opportunity.

An observation deck has been added to create 50 percent more light that can actually pass through to engage and encourage aquatic life. This Pier A inlet feature seeks to place a living shoreline which goes in part with the growing New York City movement to convert former waterfronts into living shoreline.

As we move all the way south, we get almost to the south end of Wagner Park and Pier A inlet, and we look back to the allee entrance in the back along Battery Place for Wagner Park.

Moving on to the next walkthrough. What we would like to

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 describe with this next walk through  
3 is the ability that the park -- that  
4 the proposed park has in connection  
5 with universal access and sustainable  
6 practices along its planting.

7 As you see, we have many ways  
8 to engage -- to engage into the park.  
9 The park features a number of  
10 sustainable elements. It provides  
11 the opportunity to introduce salvage  
12 elements as much as we can,  
13 particularly with the stone  
14 treatment, the paving colors and  
15 materials selected to increase -- to  
16 increases park's solar reflective  
17 index, and it reduces the park's  
18 contribution to heat island effect.  
19 So all these things have been put  
20 into play to provide performative  
21 components to the park.

22 As you see when you move up  
23 into the park, you have an  
24 opportunity to understand its many  
25 layers as it loops into the

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 esplanade. There are a lot of  
3 opportunities for the community to  
4 come together and perform activities  
5 such as picnics, social engagement.  
6 And ultimately, it blends into an  
7 open lawn that provides flexible  
8 opportunity for programming.

9 Site lining has been very  
10 carefully chosen as well. In order  
11 to reduce glare and enhance nighttime  
12 view, we have selected materials to  
13 actually enhance the nighttime view  
14 of the harbor and the Statue of  
15 Liberty.

16 Plantings have been focused  
17 completely on native planting  
18 systems. We have for -- we have  
19 worked very closely with Battery Park  
20 City Parks in ensuring that we have a  
21 native array of planting design  
22 treatments.

23 Here is a look on the upper  
24 level, of the most top level of the  
25 park where you can experience the

## PUBLIC HEARING

open lawn for flexible use. And we've also found optimal locations to relocate some of the wonderful selection of outdoor sculptures that Battery Park City has.

As we move all the way to the south, we encounter yet another way of engage with the park. Just to note, there is an ADA accessible ramp right next to the stairs. Right through the stairs we can see the Pier A inlet again where we were just a few minutes earlier. There you get a glimpse of the ADA accessible ramp that gets you back up to the park on this side. And we're exiting the exact way we exited in the last loop, in the previous animation, looking back into the allee, the south allee overlooking the building.

The next animation will describe what it's actually like -- what it's like to engage into the pavilion, another design component of

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 the large Resiliency Project, through  
3 the allees that have been slightly  
4 and very subtly raised to get you to  
5 a main entrance to the park. As you  
6 see, the south allee slowly moves up  
7 into the center of the pavilion and  
8 introduces an incredible gateway to  
9 enter the park.

10 Here's where we make a turn,  
11 looking down at the north allee which  
12 is basically orchestrated in the same  
13 way that the south allees is  
14 orchestrated. And through this  
15 gateway, the pavilion then allows for  
16 an opportunity to enter the park at  
17 its higher elevation.

18 We are landing on the flexible  
19 central lawn. We're turning left to  
20 look at the open lawn where we find  
21 opportunities for -- a lot of  
22 opportunities for shading and  
23 flexible use. The lawn has been kept  
24 open right at the center to allow for  
25 the new shades to occur.

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 And as we move up to the north,  
3 we also find a lot of opportunities  
4 for foliage, for shading, to be  
5 surrounded by an environment that is  
6 completely surrounded by native  
7 planting material, which I think we  
8 have been coordinating with Battery  
9 Park City Parks.

10 We're now looking back down  
11 north, just a glimpse. You see the  
12 placement of sculptures by Tony  
13 Cragg. The Louise Bourgeois  
14 sculpture is right behind me at the  
15 moment, which would -- an optimal  
16 location, which is a wonderful piece  
17 of artwork.

18 And I'd like to say a few  
19 things about the pavilion now. So  
20 I'm going to pause this for a second  
21 so I can describe a few of the main  
22 components.

23 The pavilion is also elevated  
24 11 to 12 feet above grade. The key  
25 focus of the design was to preserve

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1  
2 and protect, to a maximum extent  
3 practicable, open space resources and  
4 opportunities to view and interact  
5 with Manhattan's waterfront,  
6 particularly through Pier A Plaza,  
7 Wagner Park and the Battery. The  
8 design of the pavilion-type targets  
9 ILFI zero-carbon certification which  
10 requires reduction for operationally  
11 [inaudible] carbon. High efficiency,  
12 low-carbon insulation, high recycled  
13 content rebar, no carbon concrete, no  
14 emitting material, triple glazing and  
15 multi-coating -- [inaudible] are some  
16 of the many sustainable practices put  
17 into play for the pavilion.

18 The building will be energy  
19 efficient, will be composed of a  
20 number of energy efficient systems.  
21 It will be highly insulated -- it  
22 would have a highly insulated  
23 envelope. We will provide energy  
24 efficient lighting as well as potable  
25 water and fixtures.

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 And one of the main designed  
3 features, as sustainable as we can  
4 imagine as well, is its green roof,  
5 which you get a little bit of a sense  
6 by looking at the top of the  
7 pavilion.

8 As so as we move north through  
9 the pavilion at that elevation, we  
10 then introduce the northern gardens.  
11 Again, a place of subtle gathering,  
12 passive recreation with ample ways of  
13 seating and an incredible display of  
14 natural ecology.

15 Now, the next animation, it's  
16 going to describe the experience  
17 along Battery Place on the street, on  
18 the sidewalk. So we wanted to start  
19 from being across the street, what it  
20 would feel like to actually engage to  
21 the park and the rest of the project  
22 scope from across. In here we know  
23 that we have options, many options to  
24 get through the park. But for the  
25 purposes of showing you what it's

PUBLIC HEARING

like to walk through that experience along the sidewalk, we're going to walk along the sidewalk. But you also have the option to go through the north allee and gradually, through universal access, get through the gateway entrance to Wagner Park, as well as the entrance to the gardens.

Here we're moving through with a heavily vegetated buffer that there also display a number of native planting treatments. We have planted some of the wall treatments along the pavilion along the street with foliage that can drape over.

And as we get to the other end, to the southern end of Battery Place, we get a glimpse of the Battery, Pier A Plaza, and just for reforms, we're turning right back into the allee, the south allee which gives us through another universally accessible ramp entry to the park.

## PUBLIC HEARING

Now we're going move to another set of components of the project which is the Battery and Pier A Plaza. And just for reference, we're turning right back into the allee, the south allee, which gets us to another universally accessible ground entry to the park.

Now we're going to move to another set of components of the project, which is the Battery and Pier A Plaza.

So for reference, follow the lines so you can understand more as to the walk that we're engaging at the moment.

So as you see, we start at the Battery, right, on the existing side of the -- the existing condition of the Battery, to the right you see that bermed passive treatment platted in the form of an earthen berm. And what we've done in and around the berm is to enhance some of the --

## PUBLIC HEARING

bring more planting foliage, as similar to the existing conditions of the Battery at the moment.

As you see, we have a very distinct sort of definition of both the bikeway and the pedestrian right-of-way. This is now becoming another entrance to the park.

The project assignment extends into the bikeway, onto the north side of the Battery. We're using the same material treatments for the ground, same color tones as it exists today for the Battery. And here is a quick peak, as when you look back into the Battery along the flood walls, which is platted with stone treatment, both of sculptural quality, and an opportunity to navigate through the bikeway and also on foot through the Pier A Plaza.

We're making a slight turn to the left and looking at up Pier A Plaza from behind. This entire

## PUBLIC HEARING

section combines flip-up deployable gates, and also the exposed flood wall as I just mentioned.

We have provided a number of landscape public edges in and around the Battery. We believe that there is incredible improvement in circulation. It designates universal access with pedestrian access, with ramp access to the various elevations. And we ensure that we introduce the bikeway in a way that is functional and it would be conflict-free with pedestrian use.

So as we get to the north end of the Pier A Plaza, we're making that turn so we can show you how the various levels are connected with the introduction of universal access, plenty of seating, and lots of shading, particularly in the middle of the plaza.

A second. And lastly, we wanted to show you a little bit more

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 of the northern gardens. We've  
3 basically cut the components: Museum  
4 of Jewish Heritage, Wagner Park, Pier  
5 A Plaza, the Battery, and even  
6 Battery Place. Now we're going to do  
7 a final walkthrough through the  
8 northern gardens located in Wagner  
9 Park.

10 So we're coming from the Museum  
11 of Jewish Heritage. These are some  
12 of the existing wonderful features,  
13 the reflecting pools, and we see how  
14 they actually transition into the new  
15 project areas in the new project  
16 design areas. This is a very  
17 important moment because you do have  
18 the flexibility of making choices  
19 about how you enter the park, whether  
20 you do it through the northern  
21 gardens on the right, whether you do  
22 it through the allee of trees in the  
23 center with a very gradual ramp  
24 ascending to the main entrance in the  
25 park, or when you move through

## PUBLIC HEARING

Battery Place along the sidewalk.

So for the purposes of this experiential walk, we're going through the ornamental gardens, which are a series of robust, very colorful, very seasonal, very native planting arrangements for the project. Universally accessible, all ramps meet ADA requirements to a very comfortable level, and we also provide seating and places for you to experience the ever changing foliage that we propose for the park.

Ultimate locations for a cultural treatment in a place where they are celebrated as they are today. They will be celebrated as they are today.

And if we move over to the right we can cut into a series of steps and get to the actual northern edge of Wagner Park, looking south through a set of steps and stairs. Right next to these stairs is the

## PUBLIC HEARING

ramp that we came up earlier.

Along the edge of the lawn, you see to the left a lot of planting which actually creates a very nice buffered separation from the lawn. Here is two tiers of flexible lawn use as you move down into the esplanade. This is something that the community was very, very eager to see through, and we believe that it's being achieved well.

Right at the center we have a condition that mimics what we have today with social seating, or social steps as we call them. And the exciting thing to note about these social steps is that it's completely accessible, universally accessible.

A large place of gathering, similar to the one we have today, overlooking the most breathtaking and most beautiful views of downtown Manhattan into the Statue of Liberty.

Then we look back. We're right

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 at the center of the park, onto the  
3 very wide esplanade. And just for  
4 kicks we wanted to show you what the  
5 park looked like from above as we fly  
6 over.

7 Can you see my screen?

8 MS. MADONICK: Yes.

9 MR. CRUZ: Perfect. So that  
10 concludes this portion of the  
11 animation presentation. I hope you  
12 enjoyed it, I hope you had a good  
13 time viewing them. And as I  
14 mentioned earlier, Battery Park City  
15 will make them available for you  
16 tomorrow. Thank you.

17 Back to you Rachel. Okay.  
18 Rene. Sorry.

19 MS. DENCKER: Thank you,  
20 Gonzalo.

21 One last project element we did  
22 also want to mention are the interior  
23 drainage improvements associated with  
24 the project. The existing sewer  
25 infrastructure crosses underneath our

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 project area, and therefore needs to  
3 be isolated to preclude the coastal  
4 surge from entering the study area.  
5 Please note on the right-hand side,  
6 it's not a pretty one, because all  
7 this work is actually below grade.

8 So how do we accomplish this  
9 interior drainage management system?  
10 We implement it in three different  
11 types of work. We're installing  
12 three tide gates. Two of these are  
13 going to be on municipal storm sewer  
14 overflows, one at First Place, and a  
15 second one at Rector Street. The  
16 third tide gate will be installed on  
17 the CSO line, which is a combined  
18 sewer overflow line at Pier A Plaza.  
19 We will also be installing two  
20 isolation valves in the Battery. We  
21 also have to install a couple of  
22 gates within the existing regulator  
23 structures that are along West  
24 Street.

25 And with that, I'll send it

## PUBLIC HEARING

over to Rene Ducker who leads our environmental team. Thank you.

MS. DUCKER: Thank you, Rachel. Again, my name is Rene Ducker, and I'm the lead for the environmental team.

Tonight I'm going to [inaudible] environmental review process. I'm going to briefly discuss the alternatives, as well as the framework for the environmental review, and our operational and construction impacts.

So to summarize the EIS process, the EIS is required by the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, otherwise known as SEQR. This DEIS addresses the requirements of SEQR and the guidance presented in the City Environmental Quality Review manual. We are following both State and City environmental review processes due to the fact that BPCA is a state authority, and the project

## PUBLIC HEARING

area includes City owned property.

A positive declaration was issued. And this means an EIS was required. And this began the environmental review process. An important element of the EIS process is to engage the public and agencies throughout the process and provide opportunities to comment.

This summary timeline provides an overview of the major documents and public comment periods for this project. A scoping document was issued on September 29th, 2021, and we held a virtual scoping meeting on October 13th, 2021. And the scoping public comment period closed on October 29th, 2021. We published the final scoping document on May 4th, along with the draft Environmental Impact Statement. Both of these documents can be found on BPCA's website.

The public comment period for

## PUBLIC HEARING

the DEIS will conclude on June 3rd. Comments received from both the public and the agencies will be addressed in the final Environmental Impact Statement.

So I'm going to briefly talk about the project and study areas. So the study area includes the flood alignment which extends from First Place through Wagner Park along Pier A Plaza and the Battery. It also includes our interior drainage locations that Rachel just described, and show up in blue boxes along west street on this map, as well as Rector and First Place.

So the solid blue line on this map represents our project area, which is the footprint for construction activities. And the dotted line represents the 400-foot area -- study area that was the analysis -- that was where the analysis was conducted.

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2           So the EIS not only looks at  
3       the proposed action, but we also  
4       consider the no action condition.  
5       And this would be where no  
6       comprehensive flood alignment within  
7       the study area would be built, and  
8       Battery Park City would remain  
9       vulnerable to the low inundation  
10      flooding and the hundred year storm  
11      event. Without flood protection, the  
12      study area, including the Museum of  
13      Jewish Heritage, Wagner Park, Pier A  
14      Plaza, and the Battery would be  
15      subject to storm damage from major  
16      and minor storm events.

17           The no action condition  
18      consists of planned or ongoing  
19      projects within the study area.  
20      These are projects that are soon to  
21      be constructed whether our project is  
22      constructed or not.

23           There are two no-build  
24      projects. The first is the Battery  
25      Coastal Resiliency Project, which is

## PUBLIC HEARING

a New York City Economic Development Corporation project, and would connect into our project at Pier A Plaza.

The second notable project is the New York City Department of Transportation Battery Park underpass and West Street underpass project. This project would provide protection for the Battery Park and West Street underpasses from future sea level rise and flood damage.

So alternatives for the project will also consider for the five segments listed here on the screen. And they were -- individually, due to their differing characteristics in each of these areas. Alternatives were also considered for the interior drainage components.

The project team evaluated options for each of these segments, and these are described in detail in section 2.2.2 of the DEIS.

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2           So I'm going to briefly  
3 describe the overall analysis  
4 framework for the EIS. So the  
5 analysis framework lays out how and  
6 what we are going to analysis in the  
7 EIS. We are analyzing the 2024 build  
8 year because that's when the  
9 construction of the project will be  
10 completed.

11           Per city and state SEQR, the  
12 EIS will evaluate socioeconomic and  
13 environmental disciplines. We have  
14 to look at both long-term and  
15 short-term impacts, as well as  
16 mitigation measures if warranted.  
17 Long-term impacts are once the  
18 project is constructed, and  
19 short-term impacts are temporary  
20 during the construction of a project.

21           And lastly, for all the  
22 socioeconomic and environmental  
23 disciplines, we have to consider the  
24 unavoidable adverse impacts, growth  
25 inducing aspects, and irreversible

## PUBLIC HEARING

and irretrievable commitments of resources.

So I talked earlier about operational impacts, and these are the impacts during the operation of the project. All of the resources listed here on left reveal no significant adverse impacts as a result of the project. Section three of the EIS provides the analysis that demonstrate why we can prove that no significant adverse impacts for these resources.

The two resources listed on the right, "historic and cultural resources" and "urban design and visual resources" had adverse impacts due to the project. And we'll go into more detail on what those impacts were and how they'll be mitigated.

As I mentioned, the project does have an adverse impact of historic and cultural resources. The

## PUBLIC HEARING

project is subject to the regulations set forth in 1409 of the New York State Historical Preservation Act, which is a counterpart to the Federal National Historic Preservation Act.

As part of 1409 compliance, we have conducted extensive coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office, otherwise known as SHPO, and it has been determined that, first, Wagner Park is eligible for the National Register, and second, there will be an adverse impact on this resource because Wagner Park will be significantly and permanently altered.

SHPO concurred that there were no prudent or reasonable alternatives to the project that would avoid or minimize harm to the existing pavilion at Wagner Park. As a result of this, a letter of resolution will be drafted in coordination with SHPO, and this agreement will identify

## PUBLIC HEARING

mitigation measures that will be implemented as a result of this impact.

Mitigation measures could include an Historical American Landscape Survey, otherwise known as HALS. This is a process to record historical landscapes in the United States and territories for the House collection at the library of Congress. HALS is a well-established mitigation measure used for situations like the one our project presents on historic resources.

Documentation of Wagner Park prior to construction would include a physical description, historic overview, a statement of significance, project information, high quality digital or large format photographs, a reproduction of select original plans, and historic photographs.

In addition to HALS, other

## PUBLIC HEARING

mitigation measures could include interpretive panels installed at the new Wagner Park that could describe the original park and the reasons why it was deemed an exceptionally significant National Register eligible resource, a website publicized on site or QR codes that can be activated on site and direct users to a history of Wagner Park and the reasons why it was deemed an exceptionally significant National Register eligible resource. The content could be similar to the panels.

Ultimately, mitigation recommendations that are agreeable to SHPO will be incorporated into the LOR as stipulations, and the LOR will be included in the final Environmental Impact Statement.

The project also will have an adverse impact on urban design and visual resources. The project will

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 result in significant adverse effects  
3 to piers at two locations, the Hudson  
4 River waterfront from Battery Place  
5 in the vicinity of Wagner Park  
6 pavilion, and the south of the Museum  
7 of Jewish Heritage.

8 There are no significant  
9 adverse impacts to any other views or  
10 urban design as a result of the  
11 project. These visual and urban  
12 design impacts are minimized by the  
13 elevated Wagner Park, recreating  
14 unobstructed view of the Statue of  
15 Liberty from the new pavilion, as  
16 shown here on this graphic, and  
17 improved wayfinding. Improved  
18 wayfinding signage at Wagner Park  
19 entrances and pedestrian and visual  
20 enhancements along the Battery Place  
21 walkway will lead pedestrians to this  
22 recreated view of the Hudson River  
23 waterfront and the Statue of liberty.

24 As I mentioned before,  
25 construction impacts are also

## PUBLIC HEARING

analyzed, and these are temporary, lasting only during the duration of construction. So for our project we have a two-year construction duration. All of the resources listed on the left side revealed no significant adverse impact during construction.

Chapter 3.15 of the EIS provides the analysis that demonstrates that why we concluded no significant adverse impacts on these resources. However, open space resources will be adversely impacted during construction, and we'll detail why and how we will mitigate these impacts.

The project is proposed to be constructed, as I mentioned, in 24 months, and it will involve six major construction tasks. Not all the tasks will start at the same time, nor take the full 24 months to construct, except the Wagner Park and

## PUBLIC HEARING

the pavilion. Construction will begin with the pavilion, Museum of Jewish Heritage and Wagner Park, followed by Pier A Plaza, the Battery, and interior drainage components.

As a result of these closures there are unavoidable significant adverse impacts to the open space in the project area, and mitigation measures will be implemented which could include the following:

During the construction in the Battery, the existing Battery bikeway would remain in service. However, a portion of the existing Battery bikeway would be rerouted to maintain connectivity along the City's bikeway network in Lower Manhattan. The Battery bikeway would be rerouted along the Battery's northern boundary from State Street to West Street.

Additionally, to continue to provide public programs and events

## PUBLIC HEARING

which have traditionally taken place at Wagner Park, BPCA would temporarily relocate all the programs and events from Wagner Park to other parks and open spaces within Battery Park City during the duration of the project's construction.

However, even with the replacement programming, the impacts to open space during construction would not be fully mitigated. BPCA will continue to consider potential options to mitigate these temporary significant adverse impacts during construction.

Should other mitigation options be identified, they will be included as part of the final Environmental Impact Statement.

So what's next after this public hearing? As we mentioned, the public comment period for the DEIS will conclude on June 3rd, 2022. We expect that the final EIS will be

## PUBLIC HEARING

completed in July 2022, and a SEQR finding statement is anticipated in August 2022 which will conclude the environmental review process.

So with that, I'm going to turn it over to Nora and she's going to go over how you can comment tonight or through June 3rd.

MS. MADONICK: Thank you. So let's take a look at the comment process for tonight's hearing.

As I mentioned earlier, BPCA will not be providing responses to any comments or questions that are raised this evening. Comments made and questions raised during tonight's hearing will be addressed in the final Environmental Impact Statement which is expected to be released in summer 2022.

Tonight, everyone who preregistered to make a comment will have one opportunity for up to three minutes to state their comment or

## PUBLIC HEARING

question. We will unmute each person in the order in which commenters registered to speak. We'll ask each commenter to please identify yourself, and if applicable, the organization on whose behalf you're speaking at the beginning of your comments.

I will alert each commenter when you have 30 seconds left to wrap up, and will thank you for your comment at the end of three minutes before moving on to the next commenter.

If time allows tonight, we may also be able to hear additional comments from those who did not preregister. And if you have not preregistered and you would like to make a comment tonight, please enter your name, your email, and your address in the QA option in this Zoom webinar. We will hear comments in the order in which commenters post

## PUBLIC HEARING

their interest in speaking.

If you do not get to finish your comment by the end of your three minutes, please submit your full comments after the hearing by email or mail to Claudia Filomena, BPCA's Director of Capitol Projects at 200 Liberty Street, 24th floor, New York, New York, 10281, or [claudia.filomena@bpca.ny.gov](mailto:claudia.filomena@bpca.ny.gov).

So we're going to get started. If you would, Joseph, would you please unmute Wendy Chapman. Wendy, please tell us your name and your affiliation, if you have one.

Joseph, have you unmuted Wendy Chapman?

MR. SMITH: Yes. Wendy, I believe you have to unmute yourself now that I've given you the option.

MS. MADONICK: Wendy, are you having difficulty unmuting? Hard for you to tell. But if you would put a -- you can put a comment in the chat

PUBLIC HEARING

if you are having difficulty. If not, we'll move on to the next commenter and come back to Wendy.

MS. CHAPMAN: I'm sorry. Can you hear me now?

MS. MADONICK: Yes, we can. Thank you, Wendy.

MS. CHAPMAN: Sorry about that, I was having problems with the buttons.

MS. MADONICK: No, no.

MS. CHAPMAN: Thank you for this update. As I'm on Community Board One, the Environmental Committee, I'm one -- I'm the co-chair with Alice Blank, and we have seen many of these slides over the many years. I was trying to decide how many years it was, but it's at least four. Do you remember how many years we've been working on this? I think it's three or four.

But anyway, what I wanted to say is I've reached the acceptance

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 stage that we need to do this. And  
3 I've made this comment before, that  
4 we need to have more signage in the  
5 park, and I know people are working  
6 on that, Gwen Dawson said at the  
7 least meeting we had that they're  
8 working on it. But again, you're  
9 breaking ground probably in August,  
10 the end of the summer, and I think  
11 the signs should have been up in the  
12 park months ago.

13 So my biggest criticism of all  
14 this beautiful work that you've done  
15 is that it will come as a great  
16 shock, and people will mourn the loss  
17 of Wagner Park and the surrounding  
18 areas, and, you know, I think you're  
19 getting a lot more backlash than you  
20 would have.

21 So I just want -- Community  
22 Board One has been on record asking  
23 for this for quite some time. So I  
24 think I'll stop there. Thank you.

25 MS. MADONICK: Thank you for

PUBLIC HEARING

your comment.

We're going to move on to Britni Erez. Joseph, if you would unmute Britni and then Britni you need to unmute yourself.

MS. EREZ: Hi. Can you hear me?

MS. MADONICK: Yes.

MS. EREZ: Hi, yes, thank you. My name is Britni Erez, I'm part of the Battery Park City Neighborhood Association.

I just want to say that I would echo Wendy's comment, that the public has almost no idea, the larger public has no idea that this is coming, and it's going to come as quite a shock to much of the public.

The other comment that I would like to make is I've gone back and looked at many of the Community Board One's resolutions dating back to 2016, 2017 time, and looking at the designs. It's my perspective that

PUBLIC HEARING

much of the feedback has not --  
material feedback has not been  
addressed of those resolutions.

Thank you very much. I  
appreciate it.

MS. MADONICK: Thank you for  
your comment.

Gregory Sheindlin.

MR. SMITH: I don't think  
Gregory is currently with us.

MS. MADONICK: Yes. I saw  
there was a couple of telephone  
numbers and I wasn't sure if Gregory  
was one of those.

All right. We'll move forward.  
Mashi Blech. I also don't see Mashi  
on the list.

Okay. Well, we can come back.  
David Goodman.

MR. SMITH: I'm also not seeing  
David with us at the moment. I think  
he was on earlier.

MS. MADONICK: Okay. Well, we  
can come back. Gabrielle Ajami.

PUBLIC HEARING

Looking for Gabriel.

MS. AJAMI: Hello?

MS. MADONICK: Yeah.

MS. AJAMI: Hi, can you hear me?

MS. MADONICK: Yes.

MS. AJAMI: Hi. It's Gabrielle Ajami, hi. So I work for Manhattan Youth. I run the downtown day camp, as well as being an administrator of Manhattan Youth.

First of all, it is my pleasure to be here to testify on the Resiliency plan for Battery Park, and while, you know, this isn't the purpose of the meeting, I'd like to give a shout out for the resiliency work and efforts toward Battery Park and the ball fields.

I grew up in, you know, Downtown Manhattan than in Community Board One, and, you know, I know firsthand the importance of sustainability efforts. You know, I

## PUBLIC HEARING

grew up enjoying the park, Southern Battery Park City, as well as the ball fields and everything that goes along with it.

You know, our community center was flooded -- the Manhattan Youth Community Center was flooded with over \$2 million of damage during Sandy, and in our estimation, we're still not protected. Yet, we applaud the protection of the southern district [inaudible]. We also run the programs at PS 276, and that area is of great importance to us as well as the community.

Our founder of Manhattan Youth, Bob Townley, who could not be here tonight -- it was his birthday so we gave him the night off -- was instrumental in advocating not only for the Battery Park City ball field in the 1990s, but he was also on the planning committee for the master plan for Battery Park City

## PUBLIC HEARING

[inaudible] parks.

We wanted to acknowledge how important it is to protect Southern Battery Park City, again, for, you know, our community and organization, and everyone [inaudible]. Protecting the institutions of the park of Southern Battery Park City is of huge importance to us at Manhattan Youth, and, you know, we just wanted to say thank you for the opportunity to comment on the plan and for, you know, continuing to allow us to be a part of the conversation and knowing what's going on and up to date.

So thank you.

MS. MADONICK: Thank you.  
Thank you for your comment.

Elyse Buxbaum. Joseph, if you would -- I saw Elyse.

MS. BUXBAUM: Can you hear me  
okay?

MS. MADONICK, Yes. We can.

MS. BUXBAUM: Wonderful. Thank

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 you. Good evening, and I really  
3 appreciate the opportunity to speak  
4 about the South Battery Park City  
5 Resiliency project. My name is Elyse  
6 Buxbaum. I am a member of the  
7 downtown community where I live with  
8 my family, but I am also the  
9 Executive Vice President of the  
10 Museum of Jewish Heritage, a living  
11 memorial to the holocaust. We're at  
12 36 Battery Place, we're right off the  
13 Hudson, and we're in the middle of  
14 the Resiliency Project.

15 Our work: We are an essential  
16 cultural and educational resource  
17 serving 200,000 visitors annually  
18 including 60,000 students. And this  
19 Resiliency Project really provides  
20 critical protection to the museum,  
21 and especially the 35,000  
22 irreplaceable personal artifacts in  
23 our collection.

24 We sustained severe flood  
25 damage from Sandy and more recently

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 from Irma. The impact was both  
3 physical and financial. And it's  
4 urgent that we complete this work  
5 before the next big storm.

6 The museum has engaged in  
7 multi-collaborative dialogue with  
8 BPCA to ensure our strategic and  
9 operational needs are met. So, in  
10 fact, my first meeting at the museum  
11 was in December 2019 regarding this  
12 resiliency work, so I'm glad to see  
13 as we're moving forward. And along  
14 the way, BPCA has been very receptive  
15 to our feedback.

16 For example, they agreed to  
17 abide by noise restrictions, and  
18 they've ensured vibration tracking by  
19 a third-party monitoring system so  
20 that our exhibitions and visitors are  
21 not disturbed and so that the safety  
22 of the objects in our building are  
23 not jeopardized. And now they're  
24 working with us towards a solution  
25 regarding the use of our driveway and

PUBLIC HEARING

access to our loading dock.

The flood bearing system has been designed in a very thoughtful way. It does justice to the public space, which is so critical to our community, and it not only preserves and protects the park land surrounding the museum, but enhances it for further generations.

I just want to say thank you for the work that you're doing.

MS. MADONICK: Thank you for your comment. Elijah Hutchinson.

MR. HUTCHINSON: Hi. Can you hear me?

MS. MADONICK: Yes, we can.

MR. HUTCHINSON: Excellent, thanks.

Hi, I'm Elijah Hutchinson, Vice President of Waterfronts at the New York City Economic Development Corporation. And thank you all for allowing me to express my support for this critical resiliency project

## PUBLIC HEARING

serving Battery Park City.

Lower Manhattan Coast Resilience is a series of interconnected coastal resilience projects done in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice that together will protect Lower Manhattan from both regular tidal inundation and storm that would otherwise pose an existential threat to these communities.

At the Economic Development Corporation I lead the planning and early design of our coastal protection portfolio of projects, including Lower Manhattan Coastal Resilience, which includes Brooklyn Bridge Montgomery Coastal Resilience, and the Two Bridges neighborhood, the Financial District Seaport Climate Resilience Master Plan, Seaport Coastal Resilience, and the Seaport and the Battery Coastal

## PUBLIC HEARING

Resilience at the Battery Wharf to have that Wharf be reconstructed to be more resilient.

Together, these projects make up a coordinated multi-agency initiative to make Lower Manhattan stronger, fulfilling a vision going back about ten years ago to when the concept of the big U was first introduced through Rebuild By Design, a federal competition of innovative infrastructure projects that integrate forward-looking infrastructure with community servicing uses.

It is critical that all of the coastal resilience projects advance so that portions of the shoreline are not left unprotected from the threats of coastal storm surge, extreme rainfall, frequent tidal inundation and heat. Without these projects we leave one of the fastest growing residential communities, and one of

## PUBLIC HEARING

the largest central business districts in the country at risk.

Lower Manhattan is where a critical transportation, drainage, water, sewers, utilities and maritime infrastructure severing the entire city and region intersect. And this is why we have already invested over a billion dollars to advance these projects.

What we have learned since beginning our participation with BPCA through Lower Manhattan Coastal Resilience projects are inherently cross-jurisdictional between agencies, require careful coordination between many city and state agencies, and will produce wide-ranging benefits to the community beyond mitigating the impacts of a changing climate.

These projects will make sure schools don't have to shut down for long period of times like what we

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 experienced during Sandy, that our  
3 subways can continue running, that  
4 our roads are clear from flooding for  
5 emergency vehicles, that residents  
6 can return to their homes and that  
7 small businesses can thrive.

8 These projects are about the  
9 long-term health and safety of our  
10 communities, about protecting  
11 investments made by families for  
12 future generations, and about making  
13 sure we can literally keep the lights  
14 on.

15 These projects also allow us to  
16 rebuild public open space to be  
17 climate resilient so that they can  
18 continue to benefit future  
19 generations for this community. And  
20 this is why EDC looks forward to our  
21 continued partnership and ensuring  
22 Lower Manhattan is climate ready and  
23 it can serve all New Yorkers as a  
24 place to work, visit, or just catch a  
25 ferry. And these projects are our

PUBLIC HEARING

opportunity to bring these  
waterfronts into the 21st century.

Thank you so much forgive me  
the opportunity to comment.

MS. MADONICK: Thank you.  
Brian Robinson.

MR. ROBINSON: Yes. Can you  
hear me?

MS. MADONICK: Yes, we can.

MR. ROBINSON: Okay. So I am  
Brian Robinson. I don't have any  
affiliation per se. I should, with  
full disclosure, just let you know  
that I am a Democratic candidate for  
congress, and I'm also a Tribecian,  
my daughter plays in Wagner Park, and  
I'm concerned about the pretense of  
why it needs to close. I'm all for  
climate change mitigation, and we of  
course want to protect our city, but  
citing Hurricane Sandy as a  
justification to close a park that  
our kids enjoy on a daily basis is a  
little disingenuous when Wagner Park

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 did not actually flood during  
3 Hurricane Sandy.

4 This park will close for two  
5 years, and I'm just not sold that  
6 it's worth it. I would like to hear  
7 more information -- I'm not saying  
8 that it's not a legitimate project --  
9 but just from looking at the details,  
10 it doesn't strike me as completely  
11 legitimate. And when I look at  
12 NASA's Goddard Institute of Climate,  
13 according to a study done in Lower  
14 Manhattan quite recently in the last  
15 few years, sea level in New York City  
16 has risen on an average of 0.27  
17 centimeters per year, and it's  
18 expected that sea levels in the area  
19 will rise on an average of  
20 0.38 centimeters per year, or  
21 anywhere from 0.175 to 0.6.

22 So over a 20 year span that  
23 amounts to less than four inches.  
24 And while it was stated that Wagner  
25 Park is in jeopardy because it's,

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 what, 7 to 10 feet up, that still  
3 puts it nowhere near any real danger  
4 or threat, in the next 50 years at  
5 that rate.

6 So I'd like to hear more. I  
7 don't like to see green space  
8 disappear. I'm not against climate  
9 change mitigation or, you know, flood  
10 mitigation, but it's just not adding  
11 up for me at this point. Thank you  
12 for letting me testify.

13 MS. MADONICK: Thank you for  
14 your comment. Stacy Pennebaker  
15 (phonetic).

16 MS. PENNEBAKER: Can you hear  
17 me?

18 MS. MADONICK: We can.

19 MS. PENNEBAKER: Good. My name  
20 is Stacy Pennebaker. I'm a resident,  
21 as the previous caller just said, of  
22 Battery Park City, and I just wanted  
23 to, I guess, first of all, thank the  
24 board for a very good preparation.  
25 It was very nice. I am very -- you

## PUBLIC HEARING

1 know, I'm surprised and pleased.

2 But I wanted to make a  
3 comparison, I guess at this stage, to  
4 Japan, in March 2011 had a huge  
5 earthquake and then a tsunami --  
6 tidal wave as a result of the  
7 earthquake. And they had sea walls  
8 all along the northern east part of  
9 Japan, and none of it worked. They  
10 had sea walls up to 10 to 15 feet  
11 high. And I have pictures, I have  
12 articles, et cetera, showing the  
13 process of the flooding, and it  
14 didn't do -- helpful.

15 But it also gave a full moral  
16 hazard, created a moral hazard, and  
17 that, as a result, a lot of people  
18 stuck around or didn't act quickly  
19 enough and a lot of deaths as a  
20 result of people thinking they were  
21 safe and protected.

22 So I just want to bring up  
23 another example of -- perhaps another  
24 consideration. But I thank the board  
25

## PUBLIC HEARING

for my testimony and I appreciate it.  
Thank you. Bye-bye.

MS. MADONICK: Thank you. So I  
want to remind everyone who is on the  
call that if you have not yet  
registered to speak and you would  
like to comment tonight, enter your  
name, email, and address in the QA  
portion of the option of the Zoom  
webinar. And we will get to you as  
soon as we can.

I just want to check in with  
the speakers that we called on  
earlier that did not respond.  
Gregory Sheindlin? Make sure is has  
not here. Okay. Because I see we  
have a couple of telephone numbers.  
David Goodman. And Mashi Blech.

Okay. I'm going to move on to  
Christopher Marte, Council Member.

MR. MARTE: Hi, can you hear  
me?

MS. MADONICK: Yes we can.

MR. MARTE: First of all, I

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 want to thank you for the  
3 presentation. I thought it was very  
4 thorough and I enjoyed the video  
5 portion, just to have a better  
6 perspective on what it's going to  
7 look like.

8 My main comment for this  
9 evening is going to be about the  
10 barrier of entrance -- acces for  
11 ordinary residents to actually have a  
12 say in this process. Even signing up  
13 for this meeting, one had to create  
14 an account with Eventbrite and go  
15 through pages to actually be  
16 registered.

17 And I hope Battery Park City  
18 Authority Board, along with their  
19 consultant, work with my office and  
20 state elected official offices, to  
21 engage with residents who are  
22 honestly surprised about what's going  
23 on, though this has been in the works  
24 for years and you have [inaudible]  
25 board.

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 And so we want to make sure not  
3 only that signs are up, as when the  
4 others mentioned earlier, but that we  
5 do more direct outreach to the people  
6 who live there, the people who enjoy  
7 the space so they can actually have a  
8 voice in this process and be able to  
9 engage before the deadline ends later  
10 this summer. But thank you again for  
11 this presentation.

12 MS. MADONICK: Thank you.

13 MR. MARTE: And finally, I'd  
14 just like to say we desperately need  
15 resiliency, and I support the  
16 project, but I think there's a lot of  
17 comments and insights that residents  
18 can provide on what to do with  
19 spaces, in particular, Wagner Park.  
20 Thank you.

21 MS. MADONICK: Thank you. I  
22 see a hand up from a Danielle  
23 Tommaso. Danielle, is there  
24 something I can help you with? Did  
25 you want to register, you had

## PUBLIC HEARING

difficuly registering?

Please remember, if you would like to speak, go to the QA on the Zoom and please enter your name and your affiliation.

I also see a hand up from Martha Gallow. Martha, are you having difficulty registering your name? Nope. There you go.

Alice Blank.

MS. BLANK: Okay. Hi there. Hi, I'm Alice Blank. I'm Vice Chair of Community Board one and Chair of the Environmental Protection Committee, and I know you all very -- well some of you I don't know, there's new folks -- but many of you very well over the years we've worked together tirelessly on this project, along with all the others. And I want to thank you for all the incredible hard work that has been done in producing this DEIS.

I did want to just reiterate a

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 request -- first of all, the  
3 community board will be, of course,  
4 responding to this, as we have done  
5 for the last five years, with  
6 resolutions, as Wendy Chapman, our  
7 co-chair has mentioned and others. A  
8 lot of what we had worked on together  
9 did not get realized yet, but we  
10 appreciate the level of exchange and  
11 would like and hope for more.

12 And in that vein I wanted to  
13 ask something that came up at our  
14 last board meeting just this week was  
15 a request to extend the comment  
16 period past June 3rd to allow the  
17 folks that did not know about this,  
18 had not yet seen the document, which  
19 was kind of difficult to access for  
20 some of us, whether or not that could  
21 be done.

22 So that's -- I don't expect an  
23 answer right here now, but I did want  
24 to again reiterate that request on  
25 behalf of CB1. And as I said, we

PUBLIC HEARING

will be, of course, submitting  
comment. Thank you.

MS. MADONICK: I apologize.

There was a question to make a second  
comment. Comments are being limited  
to one comment per person tonight.  
And there was also a question in the  
chat about whether the recording  
would be made available to watch, and  
it will.

If anyone, else would like to  
comment, if you would put your name  
and affiliation in the QA, I'd be  
happy to call on you.

And I just want to double check  
again, Gregory Sheindlin? David  
Goodman?

Okay. We have no speaker  
requests at this time. The hearing  
will remain open until 9:00. So  
could we put up the "no speakers  
currently" slide, please.

So during this time when there  
are no speakers, you can separately

## PUBLIC HEARING

enter your name and address in the QA and we will call on speakers when we have more speakers available.

Dorothy Lipsky, I noted you made a comment in the chat. If you would like to make a comment into the hearing, please enter your name and address in the QA and I'll be happy to call on you.

So there was a question asked whether there was an opportunity to ask questions and have them answered. Tonight is a time for the -- for BPCA to hear from the public. BPCA will not be providing responses to comments or questions this evening. However, comments made and questions raised will be addressed in the final Environmental Impact Statement, and you can expect that to be released in summer 2022.

And again, if for any reason you don't want to make an oral statement tonight, you can certainly

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 submit your comments or questions in  
3 writing via mail to Claudia Filomena  
4 at BPCA's Director of Capital  
5 Projects at 200 Liberty Street, 24th  
6 floor, New York, New York 10281 or by  
7 email to  
8 claudia.filomena@bpca.ny.gov.

9 I note there are a few people  
10 posting comments in chat. You'll  
11 want to send those by email or by  
12 mail, as I just explained.

13 Someone asked that I repeat the  
14 address and email for comments. And  
15 I wonder if whoever is controlling  
16 the presentation could -- thank you  
17 very much.

18 (Whereupon, there were no  
19 speakers from 7:25 P.M. to 7:33 P.M.)

20 MS. MADONICK: So we have no  
21 active speakers at this time. If you  
22 have not yet spoken during hearing  
23 and you would like to do so, please  
24 put your name and contact information  
25 in the QA option of the Zoom webinar

PUBLIC HEARING

and I will call on you.

(Whereupon, there were no speakers from 7:33 P.M. to 7:37 P.M.)

MS. MADONICK: [Inaudible]  
Vega?

MS. VEGA: Do you hear me?

MS. MADONICK: Yes, we do.

MS. VEGA: Okay. Hi, thank you. I actually have two comments regarding this Battery Park Resiliency Project.

The first comment is that I don't think that the cost-benefit works best to our community. My understanding is that the project will be built in order to prevent damage from some hundred year storm that we expect to happen, even some predicted sea level rise.

However, how does this compare to how much this project is going to cost? How would the damage from this legendary storm compare to how much we're going to spend on this project.

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 Because we have to bear in mind that  
3 the cost of this project are a  
4 certainty, while the storm is just  
5 probable. And I yet have to see any  
6 public project that has not gone way  
7 over budget and way over time in  
8 building. So this is my first point.

9 My second point is that I  
10 remember that during Hurricane Sandy,  
11 the sea wall was breached near  
12 Chelsea which then turned the West  
13 Side Highway into a riverbed. And I  
14 don't understand how addressing some  
15 portion while not addressing all of  
16 the possible low places where, you  
17 know, the sea wall can be breached is  
18 going to help.

19 As we know, water runs and  
20 tries to find the lowest elevation.  
21 So just elevating some portion, I  
22 don't see how it's going to help at  
23 all, just spend more money. Thank  
24 you.

25 MS. MADONICK: Thank you for

PUBLIC HEARING

your comment.

Mashi Blech.

Joseph, did you -- thank you.

Mashi.

MS. BLECH: You can hear me?

MS. MADONICK: Yes.

MS. BLECH: Okay, great.

I actually think the previous speaker, commenter is correct. It's not an option for New York, Lower Manhattan particularly, to do nothing. I think the evidence is clear that we -- even today I encourage everybody to read the broadsheet, because there's an excellent article in it today about an objective report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

It's not an option to do nothing, and it's not an option just for Battery Park City to do something. All of Lower Manhattan is going to have to take action. And I

## PUBLIC HEARING

1  
2 think Battery Park City will just be  
3 the first group to do it, and then,  
4 of course, the rest of Lower  
5 Manhattan is going to have to find  
6 funding, but it's not -- to survive.  
7 We're not going to be able to  
8 [inaudible] into many places that are  
9 -- with the rising sea levels and  
10 seeing the devastation there. And  
11 for the places that did nothing, it  
12 was just devastating.

13 So it is costly, but I don't  
14 see that we have a choice to just do  
15 nothing, and I think that it's  
16 imperative for us as a community to  
17 take this seriously and not just hope  
18 for the best.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. MADONICK: Thank you.

21 Again, if you would like to  
22 comment tonight or haven't registered  
23 yet, you can put your name and your  
24 address and email in the QA option of  
25 the webinar, the Zoom webinar, and we

PUBLIC HEARING

will call on you.

(Whereupon, there were no speakers from 7:43 P.M. to 7:56 P.M.)

MS. MADONICK: Whomever is controlling the presentation, please put the next slide up. Thank you.

I knew a few people have signed opposed. If you wish to make a comment for this public hearing, please put your name and contact information in the QA option of this Zoom webinar and you will be called on.

(Whereupon, there were no speakers from 7:57 P.M. to 8:10 P.M.)

MS. MADONICK: Bejal Shah.

MS. SHAH: Yes, thank you.  
Good evening.

My name is Bejal, and I'm a Tribeca resident, and I'm also a parent of three young children. I have lived in this area for over a decade, and in fact, I lived through Hurricane Sandy as a FIDA (phonetic)

## PUBLIC HEARING

resident at the time.

I absolutely support resiliency, but I'm troubled that this project does not take into account the needs of the community. The families that live in Lower Manhattan are looking for more active green spaces, spaces for children to run and play. And the neighborhood is already short on field space with the growing number of families in the area. My children participate in the soccer leagues and the baseball leagues, and they are at maximum capacity, and looking for other creative ways to create more field space.

And, you know, looking at this project, there are so many other alternatives that could be -- instead of commercial space, the neighborhood has enough commercial space and establishments, and it shouldn't be, especially at the expense of any park

PUBLIC HEARING

space.

This neighborhood has community centers and gathering spaces for adults, and those space are already underutilized. So it's clear to me from the information that's been disseminated on this project that the community's needs won't be met.

Thank you.

MS. MADONICK: Thank you for your comment.

And again, if anyone, else would like it comment, please place your name and address and email into the QA option on this webinar and you'll be called on.

(Whereupon, there were no speakers from 8:12 P.M. to 8:45 P.M.)

MS. MADONICK: There are about 15 minutes left in tonight's hearing. If you would like to make a comment and haven't done so yet tonight, please put your name and contact information into the QA option of the

PUBLIC HEARING

Zoom webinar and I will be happy to call on you.

(Whereupon, there were no speakers from 8:46 P.M. to 8:55 P.M.)

MS. MADONICK: There are about five minutes left to this hearing. If you have not spoken and would like to, please put your name and contact information in the QA on the webinar and I will be happy too call on you.

(Whereupon, there were no speakers from 8:55 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.)

MS. MADONICK: I'd like to thank you for attending the public hearing on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the South Battery Park City Resiliency Project. The Battery Park City Authority appreciates your interest in the project and your participation in tonight's public hearing. Comments will be accepted until June 3rd. This hearing is now ended.

(Time noted: 9:00 P.M.)

STATE OF NEW YORK )  
 : SS. :  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER )

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
set my hand this 26th day of May 2022.

2 3

2 4

2 5

<b>&amp;</b>	<b>21st</b> 68:3	<b>7:33</b> 79:19 80:4	<b>action</b> 8:8 40:3,4
<b>&amp;</b> 1:12	<b>24</b> 48:21,24	<b>7:37</b> 80:4	40:17 82:25 88:14
<b>0</b>	<b>24408</b> 88:22	<b>7:43</b> 84:4	<b>activated</b> 46:10
<b>0.175</b> 69:21	<b>24th</b> 5:21 53:9	<b>7:56</b> 84:4	<b>active</b> 79:21 85:8
<b>0.27</b> 69:16	79:5	<b>7:57</b> 84:16	<b>actively</b> 8:15
<b>0.38</b> 69:20	<b>26th</b> 88:18	<b>8</b>	<b>activities</b> 22:4
<b>0.6.</b> 69:21	<b>276</b> 59:14	<b>80</b> 2:13,14	39:21
<b>1</b>	<b>29th</b> 38:15,19	<b>84</b> 2:15	<b>activity</b> 7:20,24
<b>10</b> 15:4 19:16 70:2	<b>3</b>	<b>8:10</b> 84:16	<b>actual</b> 33:22
71:11	<b>3</b> 4:16	<b>8:12</b> 86:19	<b>ada</b> 23:10,15
<b>10281</b> 5:22 53:10	<b>3.15</b> 48:10	<b>8:45</b> 86:19	33:10
79:6	<b>30</b> 52:11	<b>8:46</b> 87:5	<b>adaptability</b> 11:12
<b>11</b> 25:24	<b>35</b> 1:22	<b>8:55</b> 87:5,13	<b>adaptation</b> 6:24
<b>12</b> 15:5 19:17	<b>35,000</b> 61:21	<b>9</b>	<b>added</b> 20:10
25:24	<b>36</b> 61:12	<b>9:00</b> 77:21 87:13	<b>adding</b> 70:10
<b>13</b> 14:6	<b>37</b> 1:23 7:21	87:25	<b>addition</b> 16:2
<b>13th</b> 38:17	<b>3rd</b> 39:2 50:24	<b>a</b>	45:25
<b>1409</b> 44:3,7	51:9 76:16 87:23	<b>abide</b> 62:17	<b>additional</b> 5:7 7:6
<b>15</b> 14:7 71:11	<b>4</b>	<b>ability</b> 21:3	52:17
86:21	<b>400</b> 39:22	<b>able</b> 5:7 14:9,11	<b>additionally</b> 49:24
<b>16</b> 1:21	<b>4th</b> 4:15 38:20	52:17 74:8 83:7	<b>address</b> 5:12
<b>19</b> 1:5	<b>5</b>	<b>absolutely</b> 85:3	52:23 72:9 78:2,9
<b>1990s</b> 59:23	<b>50</b> 20:10 70:4	<b>acceptance</b> 54:25	79:14 83:24 86:15
<b>2</b>	<b>53</b> 1:24,25	<b>accepted</b> 87:23	<b>addressed</b> 5:3 6:3
<b>2</b> 59:9	<b>55</b> 2:5	<b>access</b> 73:10	39:5 51:18 57:4
<b>2.2.2</b> 41:25	<b>58</b> 2:6	<b>access</b> 21:5 28:7	78:19
<b>20</b> 69:22	<b>6</b>	31:10,10,11,20	<b>addresses</b> 37:19
<b>200</b> 5:20 53:8 79:5	<b>60</b> 2:7	63:2 76:19	<b>addressing</b> 81:14
<b>200,000</b> 61:17	<b>60,000</b> 61:18	<b>accessible</b> 23:10	81:15
<b>2011</b> 71:5	<b>63</b> 2:8	23:15 28:25 29:8	<b>administration</b>
<b>2016</b> 56:24	<b>68</b> 2:9	33:9 34:19,19	82:20
<b>2017</b> 8:17 56:24	<b>6:00</b> 1:5	<b>accomplish</b> 36:8	<b>administrator</b>
<b>2019</b> 62:11	<b>7</b>	<b>account</b> 73:14	58:11
<b>2021</b> 38:15,17,19	<b>7</b> 70:2	85:6	<b>adults</b> 86:5
<b>2022</b> 4:15,16 6:6	<b>70s</b> 2:10	<b>accreditation</b>	<b>advance</b> 65:18
7:23 50:24 51:2,4	<b>72</b> 2:11	11:23,24	66:10
51:21 78:22 88:18	<b>75</b> 2:12	<b>achieved</b> 34:12	<b>advancements</b> 7:5
<b>2024</b> 42:7	<b>7:25</b> 79:19	<b>acknowledge</b> 60:3	<b>adverse</b> 42:24
<b>2050</b> 11:13 13:17		<b>act</b> 37:18 44:4,6	43:9,13,18,24
13:24		71:19	44:14 46:24 47:2
			47:9 48:8,13

49:10 50:15 <b>adversely</b> 48:15 <b>advocating</b> 59:21 <b>aecom</b> 3:22 9:16 9:24 <b>affiliation</b> 53:16 68:13 75:6 77:14 <b>afford</b> 7:22 <b>agencies</b> 38:8 39:4 66:17,19 <b>agency</b> 65:6 <b>ago</b> 55:12 65:9 <b>agreeable</b> 46:18 <b>agreed</b> 62:16 <b>agreement</b> 44:25 <b>ajami</b> 2:6 57:25 58:3,5,8,9 <b>alarming</b> 8:2 <b>alert</b> 52:10 <b>alice</b> 2:12 54:17 75:11,13 <b>alignment</b> 39:10 40:6 <b>allee</b> 20:21 23:20 23:20 24:6,11 28:6,22,23 29:6,7 32:22 <b>allees</b> 24:3,13 <b>allow</b> 24:24 60:14 67:15 76:16 <b>allowing</b> 9:20 63:24 <b>allows</b> 5:6 24:15 52:16 <b>altered</b> 44:17 <b>alternatives</b> 37:11 41:14,19 44:19 85:21 <b>american</b> 45:6 <b>amounts</b> 69:23	<b>ample</b> 27:12 <b>analysis</b> 14:11 39:24,25 42:3,5,6 43:11 48:11 <b>analyzed</b> 48:2 <b>analyzing</b> 42:7 <b>animation</b> 17:3 18:5 23:19,22 27:15 35:11 <b>animations</b> 16:17 17:25 <b>annually</b> 61:17 <b>answer</b> 76:23 <b>answered</b> 78:13 <b>anticipated</b> 51:3 <b>anyway</b> 54:24 <b>apologize</b> 77:4 <b>applaud</b> 59:11 <b>applicable</b> 52:6 <b>appreciate</b> 8:18 9:10 57:6 61:3 72:2 76:10 <b>appreciates</b> 3:7 87:20 <b>aquatic</b> 20:12 <b>arch</b> 1:15 3:14 <b>area</b> 11:5 14:3,4 14:22 15:3 36:2,4 38:2 39:9,19,23,23 40:7,12,19 49:11 59:14 69:18 84:23 85:13 <b>areas</b> 32:15,16 39:8 41:19 55:18 <b>arrangements</b> 33:8 <b>array</b> 22:21 <b>article</b> 82:17 <b>articles</b> 71:13 <b>artifacts</b> 61:22	<b>artwork</b> 25:17 <b>ascending</b> 32:24 <b>asked</b> 78:11 79:13 <b>asking</b> 55:22 <b>aspect</b> 13:15 <b>aspects</b> 42:25 <b>assets</b> 12:8 <b>assignment</b> 30:10 <b>associated</b> 16:14 35:23 <b>association</b> 56:13 <b>atlantic</b> 7:20 <b>atmospheric</b> 82:19 <b>attending</b> 3:3 87:15 <b>august</b> 51:4 55:9 <b>authority</b> 1:2 3:7 3:19 6:17 10:4 17:11 37:25 73:18 87:19 <b>available</b> 4:11 17:12 35:15 77:10 78:4 <b>average</b> 7:24 69:16,19 <b>avoid</b> 12:17 44:20 <b>aware</b> 13:11	<b>barrier</b> 73:10 <b>base</b> 18:13,14 <b>baseball</b> 85:14 <b>basically</b> 24:12 32:3 <b>basin</b> 7:20 <b>basis</b> 68:24 <b>battery</b> 1:2,3 3:5,6 3:18 6:17 7:13 8:10,20 10:3,6,10 10:16,18,22 11:2 11:10,14 12:9,17 15:17,25 16:20 17:10,10 19:3 20:22 22:19 23:6 25:8 26:7 27:17 28:19,20 29:4,12 29:19,21 30:4,12 30:15,17 31:7 32:5,6 33:2 35:14 36:20 39:12 40:8 40:14,24 41:8,11 47:4,20 49:6,15,15 49:17,21 50:6 56:12 58:15,19 59:3,22,25 60:5,9 61:4,12 64:2,25 65:2 70:22 73:17 80:11 82:23 83:2 87:18,19 <b>battery's</b> 49:22 <b>bear</b> 81:2 <b>bearing</b> 63:3 <b>beautiful</b> 34:23 55:14 <b>becoming</b> 30:8 <b>began</b> 4:15 38:5 <b>beginning</b> 52:8 66:13 <b>behalf</b> 52:7 76:25
		<b>b</b>	
		<b>b</b> 1:10,18 2:2 <b>b.j.</b> 1:12 3:17 6:16 6:18 9:14 <b>back</b> 9:13 20:21 20:22 23:16,20 25:10 28:22 29:6 30:16 34:25 35:17 54:4 56:21,23 57:19,25 65:9 <b>backlash</b> 55:19 <b>ball</b> 7:3 10:10 58:20 59:4,22	

<b>bejal</b> 2:15 84:17 84:20 <b>believe</b> 31:7 34:11 53:20 <b>beneath</b> 15:7 <b>benefit</b> 67:18 80:14 <b>benefits</b> 66:20 <b>berm</b> 29:23,25 <b>bermed</b> 15:14 29:22 <b>best</b> 16:25 17:7 80:15 83:18 <b>better</b> 73:5 <b>beyond</b> 8:11 66:21 <b>big</b> 62:5 65:10 <b>biggest</b> 55:13 <b>bikeway</b> 15:25 30:7,11,21 31:13 49:15,18,19,21 <b>billion</b> 66:10 <b>birthday</b> 59:19 <b>bit</b> 16:5 27:5 31:25 <b>blank</b> 2:12 54:17 75:11,12,13 <b>blech</b> 2:14 57:17 72:19 82:3,6,8 <b>blends</b> 22:6 <b>blood</b> 88:14 <b>blue</b> 39:15,18 <b>bmcr</b> 11:21 <b>board</b> 8:19 54:15 55:22 56:22 58:23 70:24 71:25 73:18 73:25 75:14 76:3 76:14 <b>bob</b> 59:18 <b>bottom</b> 18:18 <b>boundary</b> 49:22 <b>bourgeois</b> 25:13	<b>boxes</b> 39:15 <b>bPCA</b> 4:4,20 37:24 50:3,12 51:13 62:8,14 66:13 78:14,15 <b>bPCA's</b> 4:11 5:19 38:23 53:7 79:4 <b>bPCA.ny.gov</b> 4:12 <b>bPCA.ny.gov.</b> 5:24 53:11 79:8 <b>breached</b> 81:11,17 <b>breaking</b> 55:9 <b>breathtaking</b> 34:22 <b>brian</b> 2:9 68:7,12 <b>brick</b> 20:6 <b>bridge</b> 64:20 <b>bridges</b> 64:21 <b>brief</b> 3:23 6:9 <b>briefly</b> 37:10 39:7 42:2 <b>bring</b> 30:2 68:2 71:23 <b>brings</b> 20:2 <b>britni</b> 2:5 56:4,5,5 56:11 <b>broadsheet</b> 82:16 <b>brooklyn</b> 64:20 <b>budget</b> 81:7 <b>buffer</b> 28:12 <b>buffered</b> 34:6 <b>build</b> 40:23 42:7 <b>building</b> 23:21 26:18 62:22 81:8 <b>built</b> 40:7 80:17 <b>bury</b> 15:6 <b>business</b> 66:2 <b>businesses</b> 67:7 <b>buttons</b> 54:11 <b>buxbaum</b> 2:7 60:20,22,25 61:6	<b>bye</b> 72:3,3 <b>c</b> <b>c</b> 1:18 2:2 88:2,2 <b>call</b> 34:16 72:6 77:15 78:3,10 80:2 84:2 87:3,11 <b>called</b> 72:14 84:13 86:17 <b>caller</b> 70:21 <b>camp</b> 58:10 <b>candidate</b> 68:15 <b>capacity</b> 85:16 <b>capital</b> 1:14 5:20 79:4 <b>capitol</b> 53:8 <b>carbon</b> 26:9,11,12 26:13 <b>careful</b> 66:17 <b>carefully</b> 22:10 <b>catch</b> 67:24 <b>cb1</b> 76:25 <b>celebrated</b> 33:17 33:18 <b>center</b> 19:18 24:7 24:24 32:23 34:13 35:2 59:6,8 <b>centers</b> 86:4 <b>centimeters</b> 69:17 69:20 <b>central</b> 24:19 66:2 <b>century</b> 68:3 <b>ceo</b> 6:16 <b>certainly</b> 78:25 <b>certainty</b> 81:4 <b>certification</b> 26:9 <b>certify</b> 88:9,12 <b>cetera</b> 71:13 <b>chair</b> 54:17 75:13 75:14 76:7 <b>change</b> 7:8 68:20 70:9	<b>changing</b> 33:13 66:22 <b>chapman</b> 1:25 53:14,18 54:5,9,13 76:6 <b>chapter</b> 48:10 <b>characteristics</b> 41:18 <b>chat</b> 53:25 77:9 78:6 79:10 <b>check</b> 72:13 77:16 <b>chelsea</b> 81:12 <b>chief</b> 1:12,15 <b>children</b> 84:22 85:9,13 <b>choice</b> 83:14 <b>choices</b> 32:18 <b>chosen</b> 22:10 <b>christopher</b> 2:11 72:21 <b>circulation</b> 31:9 <b>citing</b> 68:22 <b>city</b> 1:2,3 3:6,7,19 6:17 7:13 8:11,20 9:8,22 10:4,7,10 10:16,18,22 11:20 12:9 15:17 17:10 17:11 19:4 20:16 22:20 23:6 25:9 35:14 37:21,23 38:2 40:8 41:2,7 42:11 50:7 56:12 59:3,22,25 60:5,9 61:4 63:22 64:2 66:8,18 68:21 69:15 70:22 73:17 82:23 83:2 87:18 87:19 <b>city's</b> 49:19 <b>clarify</b> 19:8
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<b>claudia</b> 1:14 5:19 5:23 53:7 79:3 <b>claudia.filomena</b> 5:24 53:11 79:8 <b>clear</b> 16:22 67:4 82:14 86:6 <b>clearer</b> 7:21 <b>climate</b> 6:23 7:8 64:7,23 66:22 67:17,22 68:20 69:12 70:8 <b>close</b> 9:7 68:19,23 69:4 <b>closed</b> 38:18 <b>closely</b> 22:19 <b>closures</b> 49:8 <b>coast</b> 64:3 <b>coastal</b> 7:14 10:25 11:8 12:6 13:17 14:10 19:15 36:3 40:25 64:5,16,18 64:20,24,25 65:18 65:21 66:14 <b>coating</b> 26:15 <b>codes</b> 46:9 <b>collaboration</b> 9:7 <b>collaborative</b> 62:7 <b>collection</b> 45:11 61:23 <b>color</b> 30:14 <b>colorado</b> 7:18 <b>colorful</b> 33:7 <b>colors</b> 13:2 21:14 <b>combined</b> 36:17 <b>combines</b> 31:2 <b>come</b> 16:24 17:3 22:4 54:4 55:15 56:18 57:19,25 <b>comfortable</b> 33:11 <b>coming</b> 32:10 56:17	<b>comment</b> 4:6,8,14 4:17,19,24 5:10 6:12 38:10,13,18 38:25 50:23 51:8 51:11,23,25 52:13 52:21 53:4,25 55:3 56:2,15,20 57:8 60:13,19 63:14 68:5 70:14 72:8 73:8 76:15 77:3,6,7,13 78:6,7 80:13 82:2 83:22 84:10 86:12,14,22 <b>commenter</b> 52:5 52:10,15 54:4 82:10 <b>commenters</b> 5:15 52:3,25 <b>commenting</b> 6:14 <b>comments</b> 3:11 4:21 5:2,7,14,18 5:19,25 6:18 9:11 39:3 51:15,16 52:9,18,24 53:6 74:17 77:6 78:17 78:18 79:2,10,14 80:10 87:22 <b>commercial</b> 85:22 85:23 <b>commitments</b> 43:2 <b>committee</b> 54:16 59:24 75:16 <b>committees</b> 8:22 <b>communications</b> 1:16 3:14 <b>communities</b> 64:13 65:25 67:10 <b>community</b> 7:14 8:19 20:4 22:3 34:10 54:14 55:21 56:22 58:22 59:6	59:8,16 60:6 61:7 63:7 65:15 66:21 67:19 75:14 76:3 80:15 83:16 85:6 86:3 <b>community's</b> 86:9 <b>compare</b> 80:21,24 <b>comparison</b> 71:4 <b>competition</b> 65:12 <b>complacent</b> 7:23 <b>complete</b> 62:4 <b>completed</b> 11:15 42:10 51:2 <b>completely</b> 14:5 22:17 25:6 34:18 69:10 <b>completion</b> 7:2 <b>compliance</b> 44:7 <b>component</b> 23:25 <b>components</b> 16:14 16:24 21:21 25:22 29:3,11 32:3 41:21 49:7 <b>composed</b> 26:19 <b>comprehensive</b> 40:6 <b>concept</b> 65:10 <b>concerned</b> 68:18 <b>conclude</b> 14:10 39:2 50:24 51:4 <b>concluded</b> 48:12 <b>concludes</b> 35:10 <b>concrete</b> 18:13,14 18:18 20:5 26:13 <b>concurred</b> 44:18 <b>condition</b> 13:18 20:7 29:20 34:14 40:4,17 <b>conditions</b> 13:19 30:3	<b>conducted</b> 8:13 39:25 44:8 <b>confirms</b> 11:25 <b>conflict</b> 31:15 <b>congress</b> 45:12 68:16 <b>connect</b> 15:10,12 41:4 <b>connected</b> 31:19 <b>connection</b> 21:4 <b>connectivity</b> 49:19 <b>connects</b> 10:17 14:21,23 <b>consider</b> 40:4 41:15 42:23 50:13 <b>consideration</b> 71:25 <b>considered</b> 41:20 <b>consists</b> 40:18 <b>construct</b> 48:25 <b>constructed</b> 15:7 40:21,22 42:18 48:20 <b>construction</b> 37:14 39:21 42:9 42:20 45:17 47:25 48:4,5,9,16,22 49:2,14 50:8,11,16 <b>consultant</b> 73:19 <b>contact</b> 79:24 84:11 86:24 87:9 <b>content</b> 26:13 46:15 <b>continue</b> 18:20,25 19:20,23 49:24 50:13 67:3,18 <b>continued</b> 67:21 <b>continuing</b> 60:14 <b>contribution</b> 21:18
---	---	--	--

<b>control</b> 12:6 <b>controlling</b> 79:15 84:6 <b>conversation</b> 10:6 10:21 60:15 <b>convert</b> 20:16 <b>converts</b> 20:5 <b>coordinated</b> 65:6 <b>coordinating</b> 25:8 <b>coordination</b> 44:8 44:24 66:18 <b>corporation</b> 41:3 63:23 64:15 <b>correct</b> 82:10 88:10 <b>cost</b> 80:14,23 81:3 <b>costly</b> 83:13 <b>council</b> 72:21 <b>counterpart</b> 44:5 <b>country</b> 66:3 <b>county</b> 88:5 <b>couple</b> 36:21 57:13 72:18 <b>course</b> 68:21 76:3 77:2 83:4 <b>cover</b> 4:3 <b>cragg</b> 25:13 <b>create</b> 20:10 73:13 85:17 <b>created</b> 11:17 71:17 <b>creates</b> 34:5 <b>creative</b> 85:17 <b>criteria</b> 11:19 <b>critical</b> 61:20 63:6 63:25 65:17 66:5 <b>criticism</b> 55:13 <b>cross</b> 66:16 <b>crosses</b> 35:25 <b>cruz</b> 1:21 16:7,9 35:9	<b>cso</b> 36:17 <b>cultural</b> 33:16 43:16,25 61:16 <b>current</b> 11:6 13:19 <b>currently</b> 18:21 57:11 77:23 <b>cut</b> 32:3 33:21  <b>d</b>  <b>daily</b> 68:24 <b>damage</b> 40:15 41:13 59:9 61:25 80:18,23 <b>danger</b> 70:3 <b>danielle</b> 74:22,23 <b>data</b> 7:18 <b>date</b> 60:16 <b>dating</b> 56:23 <b>daughter</b> 68:17 <b>david</b> 57:20,22 72:19 77:17 <b>davis</b> 88:7,22 <b>dawson</b> 1:13 3:18 55:6 <b>day</b> 58:10 88:18 <b>deadline</b> 74:9 <b>deaths</b> 71:20 <b>decade</b> 84:24 <b>december</b> 62:11 <b>decide</b> 54:20 <b>deck</b> 20:9 <b>declaration</b> 38:3 <b>deemed</b> 46:6,12 <b>defined</b> 15:19 <b>definition</b> 30:6 <b>deis</b> 3:22,24 4:10 4:15,17 6:10 15:19 37:19 39:2 41:25 50:23 75:24 <b>democratic</b> 68:15 <b>demonstrate</b> 43:12	<b>demonstrates</b> 13:2 48:12 <b>dencker</b> 1:22 3:21 9:16,18,19,23 35:19 <b>department</b> 41:7 <b>deployable</b> 31:2 <b>deployables</b> 14:19 15:11 <b>describe</b> 16:12 21:2 23:23 25:21 27:16 42:3 46:4 <b>described</b> 39:14 41:24 <b>describes</b> 18:2,5 <b>describing</b> 16:17 <b>description</b> 45:18 <b>design</b> 9:24 11:19 14:12 20:5 22:21 23:25 25:25 26:8 32:16 43:17 46:24 47:10,12 64:16 65:11 <b>designates</b> 31:9 <b>designed</b> 11:3,12 12:10 27:2 63:4 <b>designer</b> 16:8 <b>designs</b> 9:4 56:25 <b>desperately</b> 74:14 <b>detail</b> 6:14 41:24 43:20 48:16 <b>details</b> 69:9 <b>determined</b> 44:11 <b>devastating</b> 83:12 <b>devastation</b> 83:10 <b>development</b> 41:2 63:22 64:14 <b>dfe</b> 19:15 <b>dfes</b> 15:3,5 <b>diagram</b> 17:25	<b>dialogue</b> 62:7 <b>different</b> 4:7 36:10 <b>differing</b> 41:18 <b>difficult</b> 76:19 <b>difficulty</b> 53:23 54:2 75:2,9 <b>digital</b> 45:21 <b>direct</b> 46:10 74:5 <b>directly</b> 11:24 <b>director</b> 1:14 5:20 53:8 79:4 <b>disappear</b> 70:8 <b>disciplines</b> 42:13 42:23 <b>disclosure</b> 68:14 <b>discuss</b> 16:5 37:11 <b>disingenuous</b> 68:25 <b>display</b> 27:13 28:13 <b>disruption</b> 12:18 <b>disseminated</b> 86:8 <b>distinct</b> 30:6 <b>district</b> 59:13 64:22 <b>districts</b> 66:3 <b>disturbed</b> 62:21 <b>dock</b> 63:2 <b>document</b> 38:14 38:20 76:18 <b>documentation</b> 45:16 <b>documents</b> 38:12 38:23 <b>doing</b> 63:12 <b>dollars</b> 66:10 <b>dorothy</b> 78:5 <b>dotted</b> 39:22 <b>double</b> 77:16 <b>downtown</b> 34:23 58:10,22 61:7
---	--	--	---

<b>draft</b> 1:3 3:4 38:21 87:16 <b>drafted</b> 44:24 <b>drainage</b> 16:3 35:23 36:9 39:13 41:21 49:6 66:5 <b>drape</b> 28:17 <b>driveway</b> 62:25 <b>ducker</b> 1:23 3:21 37:2,4,5 <b>due</b> 15:5 19:14 37:24 41:17 43:19 <b>duration</b> 48:3,6 50:7	<b>effort</b> 8:19 <b>efforts</b> 6:22 7:10 8:17 58:19,25 <b>eis</b> 37:15,16 38:4,7 40:2 42:4,7,12 43:11 48:10 50:25 <b>elected</b> 73:20 <b>element</b> 35:21 38:7 <b>elements</b> 21:10,12 <b>elevate</b> 15:4 <b>elevated</b> 25:23 47:13 <b>elevating</b> 81:21 <b>elevation</b> 13:3,9 13:11,22,23 14:6,7 19:17 24:17 27:9 81:20 <b>elevations</b> 14:12 31:12 <b>eligible</b> 44:12 46:8 46:14 <b>elijah</b> 2:8 63:14,20 <b>elyse</b> 2:7 60:20,21 61:5 <b>email</b> 5:11,22 52:22 53:6 72:9 79:7,11,14 83:24 86:15 <b>emergency</b> 67:5 <b>emitting</b> 26:14 <b>encounter</b> 23:8 <b>encourage</b> 20:12 82:15 <b>ended</b> 87:24 <b>ends</b> 74:9 <b>energy</b> 26:18,20 26:23 <b>engage</b> 20:12 21:8 21:8 23:9,24 27:20 38:8 73:21	74:9 <b>engaged</b> 8:16 62:6 <b>engagement</b> 22:5 <b>engaging</b> 29:16 <b>enhance</b> 22:11,13 29:25 <b>enhancements</b> 47:20 <b>enhances</b> 63:9 <b>enjoy</b> 68:24 74:6 <b>enjoyed</b> 35:12 73:4 <b>enjoying</b> 59:2 <b>ensure</b> 17:2,6 31:12 62:8 <b>ensured</b> 62:18 <b>ensuring</b> 22:20 67:21 <b>enter</b> 5:11 19:24 24:9,16 32:19 52:21 72:8 75:5 78:2,8 <b>entering</b> 36:4 <b>entire</b> 30:25 66:7 <b>entrance</b> 20:21 24:5 28:8,9 30:9 32:24 73:10 <b>entrances</b> 47:19 <b>entry</b> 28:25 29:8 <b>envelope</b> 26:23 <b>environment</b> 16:18 25:5 <b>environmental</b> 1:3 3:4 5:4 6:4 8:21 37:3,6,9,12,17,21 37:23 38:6,21 39:5 42:13,22 46:22 50:19 51:5 51:19 54:15 64:8 75:15 78:20 87:16	<b>erez</b> 2:5 56:4,7,10 56:11 <b>escr</b> 11:21 <b>especially</b> 61:21 85:25 <b>esplanade</b> 18:22 18:24 19:2,12 22:2 34:9 35:3 <b>essential</b> 61:15 <b>established</b> 45:12 <b>establishments</b> 85:24 <b>estimation</b> 59:10 <b>et</b> 71:13 <b>evaluate</b> 42:12 <b>evaluated</b> 41:22 <b>evening</b> 4:22 9:11 51:16 61:2 73:9 78:17 84:19 <b>event</b> 11:13 12:11 13:25 40:11 <b>eventbrite</b> 73:14 <b>events</b> 12:20 40:16 49:25 50:5 <b>everybody</b> 13:11 13:16 82:15 <b>evidence</b> 82:13 <b>exact</b> 23:18 <b>example</b> 62:16 71:24 <b>excellent</b> 17:21 63:18 82:17 <b>exceptionally</b> 46:6 46:13 <b>exchange</b> 76:10 <b>exciting</b> 34:17 <b>executive</b> 1:12,15 61:9 <b>exhibitions</b> 62:20 <b>existential</b> 64:12
<b>e</b>			
<b>e</b> 1:10,10,18,18 2:2 2:2 88:2,2 <b>eager</b> 34:10 <b>earlier</b> 23:14 34:2 35:14 43:4 51:13 57:23 72:15 74:4 <b>early</b> 17:12 64:16 <b>earthen</b> 29:23 <b>earthquake</b> 71:6,8 <b>east</b> 15:22 71:9 <b>eastward</b> 15:24 <b>echo</b> 56:15 <b>ecology</b> 27:14 <b>economic</b> 41:2 63:22 64:14 <b>edc</b> 67:20 <b>edge</b> 20:7 33:23 34:3 <b>edges</b> 31:6 <b>education</b> 20:4 <b>educational</b> 61:16 <b>effect</b> 21:18 <b>effects</b> 47:2 <b>efficiency</b> 26:11 <b>efficient</b> 26:19,20 26:24			

<b>existing</b> 12:18,23 13:3 20:5 29:19 29:20 30:3 32:12 35:24 36:22 44:21 49:15,17 <b>exists</b> 30:14 <b>exited</b> 23:18 <b>exiting</b> 23:17 <b>expect</b> 8:5 50:25 76:22 78:21 80:19 <b>expected</b> 6:5 51:20 69:18 <b>expense</b> 85:25 <b>experience</b> 17:8 18:5 19:2 22:25 27:16 28:2 33:13 <b>experienced</b> 67:2 <b>experiences</b> 16:12 <b>experiential</b> 33:4 <b>explained</b> 79:12 <b>exposed</b> 15:13 31:3 <b>express</b> 63:24 <b>extend</b> 76:15 <b>extends</b> 30:10 39:10 <b>extensive</b> 44:8 <b>extent</b> 12:12 26:2 <b>extreme</b> 65:21	<b>federal</b> 44:5 65:12 <b>feed</b> 25:24 <b>feedback</b> 57:2,3 62:15 <b>feel</b> 27:20 <b>feet</b> 13:23 14:7 15:5 19:17 70:2 71:11 <b>fema</b> 11:23,24 <b>ferry</b> 67:25 <b>fida</b> 84:25 <b>field</b> 10:10 59:22 85:11,17 <b>fields</b> 7:4 58:20 59:4 <b>fight</b> 7:8 <b>filomena</b> 1:14 5:19 53:7 79:3 <b>final</b> 5:4 6:4 32:7 38:20 39:5 46:21 50:19,25 51:19 78:19 <b>finally</b> 74:13 <b>financial</b> 62:3 64:22 <b>find</b> 19:24 24:20 25:3 81:20 83:5 <b>finding</b> 51:3 <b>finish</b> 53:3 <b>first</b> 14:15,19,20 15:21 36:14 39:10 39:17 40:24 44:11 58:13 62:10 65:10 70:23 72:25 76:2 80:13 81:8 83:3 <b>firsthand</b> 58:24 <b>five</b> 15:17 41:15 76:5 87:7 <b>fixtures</b> 26:25 <b>flexibility</b> 32:18	<b>flexible</b> 22:7 23:2 24:18,23 34:7 <b>flip</b> 14:19 15:11 31:2 <b>flood</b> 11:4,20,25 12:6,20 14:12,13 14:24 15:6,13,14 16:14 18:8,11,12 30:17 31:3 39:9 40:6,11 41:13 61:24 63:3 69:2 70:9 <b>flooded</b> 59:7,8 <b>flooding</b> 40:10 67:4 71:14 <b>floor</b> 5:21 11:6 53:9 79:6 <b>fly</b> 35:5 <b>focus</b> 10:20 25:25 <b>focused</b> 22:16 <b>focusing</b> 10:5 <b>foliage</b> 25:4 28:17 30:2 33:13 <b>folks</b> 75:18 76:17 <b>follow</b> 6:13 29:14 <b>followed</b> 49:5 <b>following</b> 4:18 37:22 49:13 <b>foot</b> 13:9 30:21 39:22 <b>footprint</b> 39:20 <b>forecast</b> 7:23 <b>forecasts</b> 7:19 <b>forgive</b> 68:4 <b>form</b> 29:23 <b>format</b> 3:25 45:21 <b>former</b> 20:16 <b>forth</b> 44:3 <b>forward</b> 57:16 62:13 65:14 67:20	<b>found</b> 23:3 38:23 <b>founder</b> 59:17 <b>four</b> 13:12 54:21 54:23 69:23 <b>framework</b> 37:12 42:4,5 <b>free</b> 31:15 <b>frequency</b> 11:7 <b>frequent</b> 7:16 65:22 <b>front</b> 12:15 19:19 <b>fulfilling</b> 65:8 <b>full</b> 14:2 48:24 53:5 68:14 71:16 <b>fully</b> 50:12 <b>functional</b> 31:14 <b>funding</b> 83:6 <b>further</b> 10:12 63:10 88:12 <b>future</b> 41:12 67:12 67:18
<b>g</b>			
<b>f</b> 1:10 88:2 <b>facilitating</b> 3:15 <b>fact</b> 37:24 62:10 84:24 <b>families</b> 67:11 85:7,12 <b>family</b> 61:8 <b>fastest</b> 65:24 <b>feature</b> 20:13 <b>features</b> 21:9 27:3 32:12			<b>gabriel</b> 58:2 <b>gabrielle</b> 2:6 57:25 58:8 <b>gallow</b> 75:8 <b>gardens</b> 27:10 28:10 32:2,8,21 33:5 <b>gate</b> 36:16 <b>gates</b> 31:3 36:12 36:22 <b>gateway</b> 24:8,15 28:8 <b>gathering</b> 27:11 34:20 86:4 <b>generations</b> 63:10 67:12,19 <b>getting</b> 7:15 55:19 <b>give</b> 3:23 58:18

<b>given</b> 53:21 <b>gives</b> 28:23 <b>glad</b> 62:12 <b>glare</b> 22:11 <b>glass</b> 14:23 18:15 <b>glazing</b> 26:14 <b>glimpse</b> 23:15 25:11 28:20 <b>glitches</b> 17:14 <b>go</b> 4:7 6:7,12 15:22 28:5 43:19 51:7 73:14 75:4 75:10 <b>goddard</b> 69:12 <b>goes</b> 14:20,24 20:14 59:4 <b>going</b> 9:15 15:6 16:6,16 17:17,22 25:20 27:16 28:3 29:2,10 32:6 33:4 36:13 37:8,10 39:7 42:2,6 51:6,7 53:12 56:3,18 60:16 65:8 72:20 73:6,9,22 80:22,25 81:18,22 82:25 83:5,7 <b>gonzalo</b> 1:21 16:7 35:20 <b>good</b> 35:12 61:2 70:19,24 84:19 <b>goodman</b> 57:20 72:19 77:18 <b>grade</b> 25:24 36:7 <b>gradual</b> 32:23 <b>gradually</b> 28:6 <b>graphic</b> 47:16 <b>gray</b> 10:11,19 <b>great</b> 6:19 55:15 59:15 82:8	<b>green</b> 27:4 70:7 85:9 <b>gregory</b> 57:9,11 57:14 72:16 77:17 <b>grew</b> 58:21 59:2 <b>ground</b> 7:6 12:19 29:8 30:13 55:9 <b>group</b> 83:3 <b>growing</b> 20:15 65:24 85:12 <b>growth</b> 42:24 <b>guess</b> 70:23 71:4 <b>guidance</b> 37:20 <b>guys</b> 16:10 <b>gwen</b> 1:13 3:18 55:6	5:1 6:1,3,11 7:1 8:1 9:1 10:1 11:1 12:1 13:1 14:1 15:1 16:1 17:1 18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1 22:1 23:1 24:1 25:1 26:1 27:1 28:1 29:1 30:1 31:1 32:1 33:1 34:1 35:1 36:1 37:1 38:1 39:1 40:1 41:1 42:1 43:1 44:1 45:1 46:1 47:1 48:1 49:1 50:1,22 51:1,12,18 52:1 53:1,6 54:1 55:1 56:1 57:1 58:1 59:1 60:1 61:1 62:1 63:1 64:1 65:1 66:1 67:1 68:1 69:1 70:1 71:1 72:1 73:1 74:1 75:1 76:1 77:1,20 78:1,8 79:1,22 80:1 81:1 82:1 83:1 84:1,10 85:1 86:1,21 87:1 87:7,16,22,24 88:1 <b>heat</b> 21:18 65:23 <b>heavily</b> 28:12 <b>height</b> 19:6,8 <b>held</b> 1:7 8:24 38:16 <b>hello</b> 58:3 <b>help</b> 9:9 74:24 81:18,22 <b>helpful</b> 71:15 <b>hereunto</b> 88:17 <b>heritage</b> 14:22,25 15:23 17:23 18:10	18:17 32:4,11 40:13 47:7 49:4 61:10 <b>hi</b> 9:18 56:7,10 58:5,8,9 63:15,20 72:22 75:12,13 80:9 <b>high</b> 26:11,12 45:21 71:12 <b>higher</b> 24:17 <b>highly</b> 26:21,22 <b>highway</b> 81:13 <b>historic</b> 43:16,25 44:6,9 45:15,18,23 <b>historical</b> 44:4 45:6,9 <b>history</b> 46:11 <b>holocaust</b> 61:11 <b>homes</b> 8:9 67:6 <b>honestly</b> 73:22 <b>hope</b> 16:21 35:11 35:12 73:17 76:11 83:17 <b>house</b> 45:10 <b>hudson</b> 47:3,22 61:13 <b>huge</b> 60:9 71:5 <b>hundred</b> 8:6 11:6 11:13 13:25 40:10 80:18 <b>hurricane</b> 6:25 7:17,20,24 68:22 69:3 81:10 84:25 <b>hutchinson</b> 2:8 63:14,15,18,20
	<b>h</b>		<b>i</b>
	<b>habitat</b> 20:3,8 <b>hals</b> 45:8,12,25 <b>hand</b> 13:18,24 16:6 36:5 74:22 75:7 88:18 <b>happen</b> 17:9 80:19 <b>happening</b> 19:10 19:11 <b>happy</b> 77:15 78:9 87:2,11 <b>harbor</b> 22:14 <b>hard</b> 53:23 75:23 <b>harm</b> 44:21 <b>haul</b> 8:24 <b>hazard</b> 71:17,17 <b>health</b> 67:9 <b>hear</b> 5:7,13 52:17 52:24 54:6 56:7 58:5 60:22 63:16 68:9 69:6 70:6,16 72:22 78:15 80:7 82:6 <b>hearing</b> 1:4 3:1,3 3:9,10,16 4:1,2,5		<b>idea</b> 56:16,17 <b>identified</b> 50:18 <b>identify</b> 44:25 52:5

<b>ilfi</b> 26:9	<b>includes</b> 38:2 39:9 39:13 64:19	<b>integrate</b> 65:14	<b>issued</b> 7:19 38:4 38:15
<b>imagine</b> 27:4	<b>including</b> 4:10 9:3 40:12 61:18 64:18	<b>intensity</b> 11:7	<b>issues</b> 17:4
<b>immediately</b> 18:23	<b>incorporated</b> 46:19	<b>interact</b> 12:14 26:4	<b>j</b>
<b>impact</b> 1:3 3:4 5:4 6:4 38:22 39:6 43:24 44:14 45:4 46:22,24 48:8 50:20 51:19 62:2 78:20 87:17	<b>increased</b> 11:6	<b>interconnected</b> 64:5	<b>japan</b> 71:5,10
<b>impacted</b> 48:15	<b>increases</b> 21:16	<b>interest</b> 3:8 5:15 53:2 87:20	<b>jeopardized</b> 62:23
<b>impacts</b> 37:14 42:15,17,19,24 43:5,6,9,13,18,21 47:9,12,25 48:13 48:18 49:10 50:10 50:15 66:22	<b>incredible</b> 24:8 27:13 31:8 75:23	<b>interested</b> 88:15	<b>jeopardy</b> 69:25
<b>imperative</b> 83:16	<b>incredibly</b> 9:7	<b>interests</b> 9:10	<b>jewish</b> 14:22,25 15:23 17:23 18:10 18:17 32:4,11 40:13 47:7 49:4 61:10
<b>implement</b> 36:10	<b>index</b> 21:17	<b>interior</b> 16:3 35:22 36:9 39:13 41:20 49:6	<b>jobs</b> 8:9
<b>implemented</b> 45:3 49:12	<b>individually</b> 41:17	<b>interpretive</b> 46:3	<b>joined</b> 3:17
<b>importance</b> 58:24 59:15 60:10	<b>inducing</b> 42:25	<b>intersect</b> 66:8	<b>jones</b> 1:12 3:18 6:16,19
<b>important</b> 6:21 7:4 9:21 12:22 13:10,15 32:17 38:7 60:4	<b>information</b> 4:3 45:20 69:7 79:24 84:12 86:7,25 87:10	<b>intervention</b> 19:6 19:9	<b>joseph</b> 1:24 53:13 53:17 56:4 60:20 82:4
<b>improved</b> 47:17 47:17	<b>infrastructure</b> 8:10 12:19 16:15 18:8,11 35:25 65:13,15 66:7	<b>introduce</b> 9:21 21:11 27:10 31:13	<b>july</b> 51:2
<b>improvement</b> 31:8	<b>inherently</b> 66:15	<b>introduced</b> 65:11	<b>june</b> 4:16 39:2 50:24 51:9 76:16 87:23
<b>improvements</b> 16:3 35:23	<b>initiative</b> 65:7	<b>introduces</b> 24:8	<b>jurisdictional</b> 66:16
<b>improves</b> 20:8	<b>inlet</b> 16:19 19:24 19:25 20:13,20 23:13	<b>introduction</b> 31:20	<b>justice</b> 63:5 64:8
<b>inaudible</b> 26:11,15 37:9 59:13 60:2,7 73:24 80:5 83:8	<b>innovative</b> 65:12	<b>introductory</b> 6:18	<b>justification</b> 68:23
<b>inches</b> 69:23	<b>insights</b> 74:17	<b>inundated</b> 14:5	<b>k</b>
<b>include</b> 45:6,17 46:2 49:13	<b>install</b> 36:21	<b>inundation</b> 8:5 14:3 40:9 64:10 65:22	<b>k</b> 1:18 2:2
<b>included</b> 3:12 46:21 50:18	<b>installed</b> 36:16 46:3	<b>invested</b> 66:9	<b>keep</b> 67:13
	<b>installing</b> 36:11,19	<b>investments</b> 67:11	<b>kept</b> 24:23
	<b>institute</b> 69:12	<b>invoke</b> 18:20	<b>key</b> 25:24
	<b>institutions</b> 60:8	<b>involve</b> 48:21	<b>kicks</b> 35:4
	<b>instrumental</b> 59:21	<b>irma</b> 62:2	<b>kids</b> 68:24
	<b>insulated</b> 26:21,22	<b>irreplaceable</b> 61:22	<b>kind</b> 76:19
	<b>insulation</b> 26:12	<b>irretrievable</b> 43:2	<b>knew</b> 84:8
		<b>irreversible</b> 42:25	<b>know</b> 17:19 27:22 55:5,18 58:16,21 58:23,23,25 59:6 60:6,11,14 68:14
		<b>island</b> 21:18	
		<b>isolated</b> 36:3	
		<b>isolation</b> 36:20	

70:9 71:2 75:16 75:17 76:17 81:17 81:19 85:19 <b>knowing</b> 60:15 <b>known</b> 37:18 44:10 45:7	<b>level</b> 11:9 14:2 19:5 22:24,24 33:11 41:12 69:15 76:10 80:20 <b>levels</b> 19:13 31:19 69:18 83:9 <b>liberty</b> 5:21 19:22 22:15 34:24 47:15 47:23 53:9 79:5 <b>library</b> 45:11 <b>life</b> 20:12 <b>light</b> 19:5 20:10 <b>lighting</b> 26:24 <b>lights</b> 67:13 <b>limited</b> 77:6 <b>line</b> 10:13 36:17 36:18 39:18,22 <b>lines</b> 29:15 <b>lining</b> 22:9 <b>lipsky</b> 78:5 <b>list</b> 57:18 <b>listed</b> 41:16 43:8 43:15 48:7 <b>literally</b> 67:13 <b>little</b> 16:5 27:5 31:25 68:25 <b>live</b> 61:7 74:6 85:7 <b>lived</b> 84:23,24 <b>lives</b> 8:8 <b>living</b> 20:14,17 61:10 <b>loading</b> 63:2 <b>locally</b> 8:5 <b>located</b> 32:8 <b>location</b> 25:16 <b>locations</b> 23:3 33:15 39:14 47:3 <b>long</b> 42:14,17 66:25 67:9 <b>look</b> 10:12 13:20 20:21 22:23 24:20	30:16 34:25 42:14 51:11 69:11 73:7 <b>looked</b> 35:5 56:22 <b>looking</b> 10:8 23:19 24:11 25:10 27:6 30:24 33:23 56:24 58:2 65:14 69:9 85:8,16,19 <b>looks</b> 12:24 40:2 67:20 <b>loop</b> 23:18 <b>loops</b> 21:25 <b>lor</b> 46:20,20 <b>loss</b> 55:16 <b>lot</b> 6:23 22:2 24:21 25:3 34:4 55:19 71:18,20 74:16 76:8 <b>lots</b> 18:19 31:21 <b>louise</b> 25:13 <b>low</b> 26:12 40:9 81:16 <b>lower</b> 10:25 12:24 49:20 64:3,9,18 65:7 66:4,14 67:22 69:13 82:11 82:24 83:4 85:7 <b>lowest</b> 13:5 81:20	<b>mail</b> 5:18 53:7 79:3,12 <b>main</b> 24:5 25:21 27:2 32:24 73:8 <b>maintain</b> 49:18 <b>major</b> 38:12 40:15 48:22 <b>majority</b> 18:13 <b>making</b> 16:15 17:11 30:23 31:17 32:18 67:12 <b>management</b> 36:9 <b>manager</b> 9:24 <b>manhattan</b> 10:15 10:25 12:24 34:24 49:20 58:9,12,22 59:7,17 60:10 64:3,9,18 65:7 66:4,14 67:22 69:14 82:12,24 83:5 85:8 <b>manhattan's</b> 12:15 26:5 <b>manifestation</b> 16:23 <b>manual</b> 37:22 <b>map</b> 39:16,19 <b>march</b> 71:5 <b>marine</b> 20:3 <b>maritime</b> 66:6 <b>marriage</b> 88:14 <b>marte</b> 2:11 72:21 72:22,25 74:13 <b>martha</b> 75:8,8 <b>mashi</b> 2:14 57:17 57:17 72:19 82:3 82:5 <b>master</b> 11:2 59:24 64:23 <b>material</b> 25:7 26:14 30:13 57:3
<b>l</b> 1:18 2:2 <b>land</b> 63:8 <b>landing</b> 24:18 <b>landscape</b> 16:8 31:6 45:7 <b>landscapes</b> 45:9 <b>large</b> 24:2 34:20 45:21 <b>larger</b> 56:16 <b>largest</b> 66:2 <b>lasting</b> 48:3 <b>lastly</b> 31:24 42:21 <b>lawn</b> 22:7 23:2 24:19,20,23 34:3,6 34:7 <b>lay</b> 7:5 <b>layers</b> 21:25 <b>lays</b> 42:5 <b>lead</b> 1:15 16:8 37:6 47:21 64:15 <b>leads</b> 37:2 <b>leagues</b> 85:14,15 <b>learned</b> 66:12 <b>leave</b> 65:24 <b>left</b> 13:18,24 18:10 18:24 24:19 30:24 34:4 43:8 48:7 52:11 65:20 86:21 87:7 <b>legendary</b> 80:24 <b>legitimate</b> 69:8,11 <b>letter</b> 44:23 <b>letting</b> 70:12	<b>liberty</b> 5:21 19:22 22:15 34:24 47:15 47:23 53:9 79:5 <b>library</b> 45:11 <b>life</b> 20:12 <b>light</b> 19:5 20:10 <b>lighting</b> 26:24 <b>lights</b> 67:13 <b>limited</b> 77:6 <b>line</b> 10:13 36:17 36:18 39:18,22 <b>lines</b> 29:15 <b>lining</b> 22:9 <b>lipsky</b> 78:5 <b>list</b> 57:18 <b>listed</b> 41:16 43:8 43:15 48:7 <b>literally</b> 67:13 <b>little</b> 16:5 27:5 31:25 68:25 <b>live</b> 61:7 74:6 85:7 <b>lived</b> 84:23,24 <b>lives</b> 8:8 <b>living</b> 20:14,17 61:10 <b>loading</b> 63:2 <b>locally</b> 8:5 <b>located</b> 32:8 <b>location</b> 25:16 <b>locations</b> 23:3 33:15 39:14 47:3 <b>long</b> 42:14,17 66:25 67:9 <b>look</b> 10:12 13:20 20:21 22:23 24:20	<b>m</b>	
		<b>madonick</b> 1:15 3:2 3:13 9:14 35:8 51:10 53:22 54:7 54:12 55:25 56:9 57:7,12,24 58:4,7 60:18,24 63:13,17 68:6,10 70:13,18 72:4,24 74:12,21 77:4 79:20 80:5,8 81:25 82:7 83:20 84:5,17 86:11,20 87:6,14	

<b>materials</b> 4:9 21:15 22:12 <b>matter</b> 88:16 <b>maximizing</b> 15:8 18:16 <b>maximum</b> 12:12 19:2 26:2 85:15 <b>mayor's</b> 64:7 <b>means</b> 38:4 <b>measure</b> 45:13 <b>measures</b> 7:3,7 42:16 45:2,5 46:2 49:12 <b>meet</b> 14:13 15:3 19:14 33:10 <b>meeting</b> 38:16 55:7 58:17 62:10 73:13 76:14 <b>meetings</b> 8:25 9:2 <b>member</b> 61:6 72:21 <b>memorial</b> 61:11 <b>mention</b> 35:22 <b>mentioned</b> 31:4 35:14 43:23 47:24 48:20 50:22 51:13 74:4 76:7 <b>met</b> 12:2 62:9 86:9 <b>middle</b> 31:22 61:13 <b>million</b> 59:9 <b>mimics</b> 34:14 <b>mind</b> 81:2 <b>minimize</b> 12:18 44:21 <b>minimized</b> 47:12 <b>minor</b> 40:16 <b>minutes</b> 1:2 5:2 23:14 51:25 52:13 53:5 86:21 87:7	<b>mitigate</b> 48:17 50:14 <b>mitigated</b> 43:22 50:12 <b>mitigating</b> 66:21 <b>mitigation</b> 14:14 42:16 45:2,5,13 46:2,17 49:11 50:17 68:20 70:9 70:10 <b>modelling</b> 13:17 14:10 <b>moment</b> 25:15 29:17 30:4 32:17 57:22 <b>money</b> 81:23 <b>monitoring</b> 62:19 <b>montgomery</b> 64:20 <b>months</b> 48:21,24 55:12 <b>moral</b> 71:16,17 <b>mourn</b> 55:16 <b>move</b> 18:22 20:18 21:22 23:7 25:2 27:8 29:2,10 32:25 33:20 34:8 54:3 56:3 57:16 72:20 <b>movement</b> 20:16 <b>moves</b> 19:12 24:6 <b>moving</b> 15:22 18:24 20:24 28:11 52:14 62:13 <b>multi</b> 26:15 62:7 65:6 <b>municipal</b> 36:13 <b>museum</b> 14:22,25 15:22 17:23 18:9 18:16 32:3,10 40:12 47:6 49:3	61:10,20 62:6,10 63:9  <b>n</b>  <b>name</b> 1:20 2:4 3:13 5:11 37:5 52:22 53:15 56:11 61:5 70:19 72:9 75:5,10 77:13 78:2,8 79:24 83:23 84:11,20 86:15,24 87:9 <b>nasa's</b> 69:12 <b>nathan</b> 88:7,22 <b>national</b> 44:6,13 46:7,13 82:18 <b>native</b> 22:17,21 25:6 28:13 33:7 <b>natural</b> 27:14 <b>navigate</b> 30:20 <b>near</b> 70:3 81:11 <b>necessary</b> 7:7 <b>need</b> 8:7 12:4 15:2 15:4 17:13 19:14 55:2,4 56:6 74:14 <b>needed</b> 14:15 <b>needs</b> 36:2 62:9 68:19 85:6 86:9 <b>neighborhood</b> 8:23 56:12 64:22 85:10,22 86:3 <b>network</b> 49:20 <b>new</b> 5:21,22 7:2 9:22 11:20 20:2 20:15 24:25 32:14 32:15 37:17 41:2 41:7 44:3 46:4 47:15 53:9,10 63:21 67:23 69:15 75:18 79:6,6 82:11 88:4,8	<b>nice</b> 34:5 70:25 <b>night</b> 59:20 <b>nighttime</b> 22:11 22:13 <b>noise</b> 62:17 <b>nope</b> 75:10 <b>nora</b> 1:15 3:13 6:20 9:12 51:7 <b>north</b> 10:12 15:21 24:11 25:2,11 27:8 28:6 30:11 31:16 <b>northern</b> 10:9 14:17 27:10 32:2 32:8,20 33:22 49:22 71:9 <b>northwest</b> 10:16 11:14 <b>northwestern</b> 14:21 <b>notable</b> 41:6 <b>notary</b> 88:7 <b>note</b> 4:19 11:18 23:10 34:17 36:5 79:9 <b>noted</b> 78:5 87:25 <b>notes</b> 88:11 <b>notice</b> 13:7 14:16 <b>number</b> 21:9 26:20 28:13 31:5 85:12 <b>numbers</b> 57:14 72:18 <b>numerous</b> 8:13
			<b>o</b>
			<b>o</b> 1:10 <b>objective</b> 82:18 <b>objects</b> 62:22 <b>observation</b> 20:9 <b>occur</b> 24:25

<b>oceanic</b> 82:19 <b>october</b> 38:17,19 <b>office</b> 44:10 64:7 73:19 <b>officer</b> 1:12,15 <b>offices</b> 73:20 <b>official</b> 3:12 73:20 <b>oh</b> 9:18 <b>okay</b> 35:17 57:19 57:24 60:23 68:11 72:17,20 75:12 77:19 80:9 82:8 <b>once</b> 14:9 42:17 <b>one's</b> 56:23 <b>ongoing</b> 40:18 <b>online</b> 9:3 17:12 <b>open</b> 6:11 12:13 15:9 22:7 23:2 24:20,24 26:3 48:14 49:10 50:6 50:11 67:16 77:21 <b>operation</b> 43:6 <b>operational</b> 37:13 43:5 62:9 <b>operationally</b> 26:10 <b>opportunities</b> 12:14 22:3 24:21 24:22 25:3 26:4 38:10 <b>opportunity</b> 4:25 20:2,8 21:11,24 22:8 24:16 30:20 51:24 60:12 61:3 68:2,5 78:12 <b>opposed</b> 84:9 <b>optimal</b> 23:3 25:15 <b>option</b> 5:12 28:5 52:23 53:21 72:10 79:25 82:11,21,22	83:24 84:12 86:16 86:25 <b>options</b> 27:23,23 41:23 50:14,17 <b>oral</b> 78:24 <b>orange</b> 14:3 <b>orchestrated</b> 24:12,14 <b>order</b> 5:14 14:14 22:10 52:3,25 80:17 <b>ordinary</b> 73:11 <b>organization</b> 52:7 60:6 <b>original</b> 10:13 45:23 46:5 <b>ornamental</b> 33:5 <b>outcome</b> 88:15 <b>outdoor</b> 23:5 <b>outreach</b> 74:5 <b>overall</b> 10:24 42:3 <b>overflow</b> 36:18 <b>overflows</b> 36:14 <b>overlooking</b> 23:21 34:22 <b>overview</b> 10:3 38:12 45:19 <b>owned</b> 38:2	<b>park</b> 1:2,3 3:5,7 3:19 6:17 7:13 8:11,20 10:4,7,10 10:16,18,22 11:2 11:10,14 12:9,16 13:7 15:3,8,9,17 15:23 16:13,19 17:10,10,24 18:23 19:4,7,11,16,19 20:20,23 21:3,4,8 21:9,21,23 22:19 22:25 23:6,9,16 24:5,9,16 25:9 26:7 27:21,24 28:8,25 29:9 30:9 32:4,9,19,25 33:14 33:23 35:2,5,14 39:11 40:8,13 41:8,11 44:12,15 44:22 45:16 46:4 46:5,11 47:5,13,18 48:25 49:4 50:3,5 50:7 55:5,12,17 56:12 58:15,19 59:2,3,22,25 60:5 60:8,9 61:4 63:8 64:2 68:17,23,25 69:4,25 70:22 73:17 74:19 80:11 82:23 83:2 85:25 87:18,19 <b>park's</b> 21:16,17 <b>parks</b> 22:20 25:9 50:6 60:2 <b>part</b> 16:4 18:4 20:15 44:7 50:19 56:11 60:15 71:9 <b>participate</b> 85:13 <b>participating</b> 9:20 <b>participation</b> 3:9 66:13 87:21	<b>particular</b> 74:19 <b>particularly</b> 8:20 12:16 21:13 26:6 31:22 82:12 <b>parties</b> 88:13 <b>partners</b> 9:8 <b>partnership</b> 8:18 64:6 67:21 <b>party</b> 62:19 <b>pass</b> 20:11 <b>passive</b> 27:12 29:22 <b>pause</b> 25:20 <b>pavilion</b> 16:19 23:25 24:7,15 25:19,23 26:8,17 27:7,9 28:16 44:22 47:6,15 49:2,3 <b>paving</b> 21:14 <b>peak</b> 30:16 <b>pedestrian</b> 30:7 31:10,15 47:19 <b>pedestrians</b> 47:21 <b>pennebaker</b> 2:10 70:14,16,19,20 <b>people</b> 55:5,16 71:18,21 74:5,6 79:9 84:8 <b>percent</b> 20:10 <b>perfect</b> 17:20 35:9 <b>perform</b> 22:4 <b>performative</b> 16:13 21:20 <b>period</b> 4:14 38:18 38:25 50:23 66:25 76:16 <b>periods</b> 38:13 <b>permanently</b> 44:16
---	--	--	---

<b>person</b> 4:5,23 52:2 77:7 <b>personal</b> 61:22 <b>perspective</b> 56:25 73:6 <b>phonetic</b> 70:15 84:25 <b>photographs</b> 45:22,24 <b>physical</b> 16:18,23 45:18 62:3 <b>picnics</b> 22:5 <b>pictures</b> 71:12 <b>piece</b> 25:16 <b>pier</b> 12:16 13:12 15:12,24 16:19,20 19:24,25 20:13,20 23:13 26:6 28:20 29:4,13 30:22,24 31:17 32:4 36:18 39:11 40:13 41:4 49:5 <b>piers</b> 47:3 <b>pink</b> 13:7 <b>place</b> 14:15,20 15:21 16:15 18:20 20:14,22 27:11,17 28:19 32:6 33:2 33:16 34:20 36:14 39:11,17 47:4,20 50:2 61:12 67:24 86:14 <b>placement</b> 25:12 <b>places</b> 33:12 81:16 83:8,11 <b>plan</b> 11:2 58:15 59:25 60:13 64:24 <b>planned</b> 40:18 <b>planning</b> 7:5,16 59:24 64:15	<b>plans</b> 45:23 <b>planting</b> 21:6 22:17,21 25:7 28:14 30:2 33:8 34:4 <b>plantings</b> 18:19 22:16 <b>platform</b> 20:6 <b>platted</b> 28:14 29:22 30:18 <b>play</b> 16:24 18:7 21:20 26:17 85:10 <b>plays</b> 68:17 <b>plaza</b> 12:17 13:13 15:12,24 16:20 26:6 28:21 29:4 29:13 30:22,25 31:17,23 32:5 36:18 39:12 40:14 41:5 49:5 <b>please</b> 4:19 5:11 6:8 11:18 17:19 36:5 52:5,21 53:5 53:14,15 75:3,5 77:23 78:8 79:23 84:6,11 86:14,24 87:9 <b>pleased</b> 71:2 <b>pleasure</b> 58:13 <b>plenty</b> 31:21 <b>plus</b> 13:8,12 <b>point</b> 13:5 70:11 81:8,9 <b>pointing</b> 14:18 <b>poles</b> 19:5 <b>policy</b> 7:4 <b>pools</b> 32:13 <b>portfolio</b> 64:17 <b>portion</b> 14:17 35:10 49:17 72:10 73:5 81:15,21	<b>portions</b> 65:19 <b>pose</b> 64:11 <b>positive</b> 38:3 <b>possible</b> 81:16 <b>post</b> 5:15 52:25 <b>posting</b> 79:10 <b>potable</b> 26:24 <b>potential</b> 8:4 50:13 <b>practicable</b> 12:13 26:3 <b>practices</b> 18:7 21:6 26:16 <b>preclude</b> 36:3 <b>predicted</b> 11:8 80:20 <b>preparation</b> 70:24 <b>prepare</b> 16:11 <b>prepared</b> 3:22 <b>preregister</b> 5:8 52:19 <b>preregistered</b> 51:23 52:20 <b>presentation</b> 3:23 4:2 6:9 35:11 73:3 74:11 79:16 84:6 <b>presentations</b> 9:2 <b>presented</b> 37:20 <b>presents</b> 45:15 <b>preservation</b> 44:4 44:6,9 <b>preserve</b> 12:12 25:25 <b>preserves</b> 63:7 <b>president</b> 1:12,13 6:16 61:9 63:21 <b>pretense</b> 68:18 <b>pretty</b> 36:6 <b>prevent</b> 80:17 <b>previous</b> 23:19 70:21 82:9	<b>prior</b> 45:17 <b>proactively</b> 7:9 <b>probable</b> 81:5 <b>probably</b> 55:9 <b>problem</b> 17:9 <b>problems</b> 17:4 54:10 <b>process</b> 4:6,8 6:13 37:10,16 38:6,7,9 45:8 51:5,12 71:14 73:12 74:8 <b>processes</b> 37:24 <b>produce</b> 66:19 <b>producing</b> 75:24 <b>programming</b> 22:8 50:10 <b>programs</b> 49:25 50:4 59:14 <b>progress</b> 6:23 <b>project</b> 1:3 3:6,8 3:20,24 4:10 6:10 8:15 9:22,24 10:7 10:11,17,19,23 11:3,5,11,15,18,22 12:5 15:18 16:4 24:2 27:21 29:3 29:12 30:10 32:15 32:15 33:9 35:21 35:24 36:2 37:25 38:14 39:8,19 40:21,25 41:3,4,6 41:9,10,14,22 42:9 42:18,20 43:7,10 43:19,23 44:2,20 45:14,20 46:23,25 47:11 48:4,19 49:11 61:5,14,19 63:25 69:8 74:16 75:20 80:12,16,22 80:25 81:3,6 85:5 85:20 86:8 87:18
--	---	--	--

87:21 <b>project's</b> 3:12 50:8 <b>projected</b> 19:15 <b>projects</b> 1:14 5:20 10:5,24 11:16,21 40:19,20,24 53:8 64:6,17 65:5,13,18 65:23 66:11,15,23 67:8,15,25 79:5 <b>property</b> 1:13 12:7 38:2 <b>propose</b> 33:14 <b>proposed</b> 21:4 40:3 48:19 <b>protect</b> 8:8 12:11 26:2 60:4 64:9 68:21 <b>protected</b> 15:8 59:11 71:22 <b>protecting</b> 60:7 67:10 <b>protection</b> 8:21 40:11 41:10 59:12 61:20 64:17 75:15 <b>protects</b> 63:8 <b>prove</b> 43:12 <b>provide</b> 11:4 12:5 12:7 21:20 26:23 33:12 38:9 41:10 49:25 74:18 <b>provided</b> 31:5 <b>provides</b> 21:10 22:7 38:11 43:11 48:11 61:19 <b>providing</b> 4:20 10:3 18:15 51:14 78:16 <b>prudent</b> 44:19 <b>ps</b> 59:14 <b>public</b> 1:4 3:1,3 4:1,5,13 5:1 6:1,2	6:11 7:1 8:1,9,13 9:1 10:1 11:1 12:1 13:1 14:1 15:1 16:1 17:1 18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1 22:1 23:1 24:1 25:1 26:1 27:1 28:1 29:1 30:1 31:1,6 32:1 33:1 34:1 35:1 36:1 37:1 38:1,8,13,18 38:25 39:1,4 40:1 41:1 42:1 43:1 44:1 45:1 46:1 47:1 48:1 49:1,25 50:1,22,23 51:1 52:1 53:1 54:1 55:1 56:1,15,16,19 57:1 58:1 59:1 60:1 61:1 62:1 63:1,5 64:1 65:1 66:1 67:1,16 68:1 69:1 70:1 71:1 72:1 73:1 74:1 75:1 76:1 77:1 78:1,15 79:1 80:1 81:1,6 82:1 83:1 84:1,10 85:1 86:1 87:1,15,22 88:1,7 <b>publicized</b> 46:9 <b>published</b> 38:19 <b>purple</b> 13:13 <b>purpose</b> 12:4 58:17 <b>purposes</b> 27:25 33:3 <b>put</b> 17:25 21:19 26:16 53:24,25 77:13,22 79:24 83:23 84:7,11 86:24 87:9	<b>puts</b> 70:3 <b>putting</b> 18:7  <b>q</b>  <b>qa</b> 5:12 52:23 72:9 75:4 77:14 78:2,9 79:25 83:24 84:12 86:16,25 87:10 <b>qr</b> 46:9 <b>quality</b> 30:19 37:17,21 45:21 <b>question</b> 52:2 77:5 77:8 78:11 <b>questioning</b> 4:21 <b>questions</b> 5:2,25 51:15,17 78:13,17 78:18 79:2 <b>quick</b> 30:15 <b>quickly</b> 71:19 <b>quite</b> 55:23 56:18 69:14  <b>r</b>  <b>r</b> 1:10,18 2:2 88:2 <b>rachel</b> 1:22 3:21 9:16,16,19,23 16:9 35:17 37:4 39:14 <b>rainfall</b> 11:7 65:22 <b>raised</b> 6:2 15:8 19:16 24:4 51:16 51:17 78:19 <b>ramp</b> 23:10,15 28:25 31:11 32:23 34:2 <b>ramps</b> 33:10 <b>range</b> 13:2 <b>ranging</b> 6:24 66:20 <b>rate</b> 70:5 <b>reached</b> 54:25 <b>read</b> 82:15	<b>ready</b> 67:22 <b>real</b> 1:13 70:3 <b>realized</b> 76:9 <b>really</b> 16:21 61:2 61:19 <b>reason</b> 78:23 <b>reasonable</b> 44:19 <b>reasons</b> 46:5,12 <b>rebar</b> 26:13 <b>rebuild</b> 65:11 67:16 <b>received</b> 5:3 39:3 <b>receiving</b> 11:22 <b>receptive</b> 62:14 <b>recommend</b> 17:5 <b>recommendations</b> 46:18 <b>reconstructed</b> 65:3 <b>record</b> 45:8 55:22 <b>recorded</b> 3:10 <b>recording</b> 77:9 <b>recordings</b> 9:3 <b>records</b> 3:13 <b>recreated</b> 47:22 <b>recreating</b> 47:13 <b>recreation</b> 27:12 <b>rector</b> 36:15 39:16 <b>recycled</b> 26:12 <b>reduce</b> 22:11 <b>reduces</b> 21:17 <b>reduction</b> 11:4 12:2,7 26:10 <b>reference</b> 19:3 29:5,14 <b>reflecting</b> 32:13 <b>reflective</b> 21:16 <b>reforms</b> 28:21 <b>regarding</b> 62:11 62:25 80:11
--	--	---	---

<b>region</b> 66:8 <b>register</b> 44:13 46:7,14 74:25 <b>registered</b> 4:23 5:9 52:4 72:7 73:16 83:22 <b>registering</b> 75:2,9 <b>regular</b> 64:10 <b>regulations</b> 44:2 <b>regulator</b> 36:22 <b>reiterate</b> 75:25 76:24 <b>related</b> 4:9 88:13 <b>released</b> 6:5 51:20 78:21 <b>reliable</b> 12:5 <b>relieving</b> 20:6 <b>relocate</b> 23:4 50:4 <b>remain</b> 40:8 49:16 77:21 <b>remember</b> 54:21 75:3 81:10 <b>remind</b> 12:23 72:5 <b>rene</b> 1:23 3:21 14:18 35:18 37:2 37:5 <b>repeat</b> 79:13 <b>replacement</b> 50:10 <b>report</b> 82:18 <b>reporters</b> 9:4 <b>representatives</b> 3:20 <b>represents</b> 10:23 39:19,22 <b>reproduction</b> 45:22 <b>request</b> 76:2,15,24 <b>requests</b> 77:20 <b>require</b> 66:17 <b>required</b> 14:13 37:16 38:5	<b>requirements</b> 33:10 37:19 <b>requires</b> 9:6 26:10 <b>rerouted</b> 49:18,21 <b>residence</b> 12:8 <b>resident</b> 70:20 84:21 85:2 <b>residential</b> 65:25 <b>residents</b> 67:5 73:11,21 74:17 <b>resilience</b> 64:4,5 64:19,21,23,24 65:2,18 66:15 <b>resiliency</b> 1:3 3:6 4:12 6:22 7:3,7 10:4,11,17,19,25 11:3,11,15,20 15:18 24:2 40:25 58:15,18 61:5,14 61:19 62:12 63:25 74:15 80:12 85:4 87:18 <b>resilient</b> 65:4 67:17 <b>resolution</b> 44:23 <b>resolutions</b> 56:23 57:4 76:6 <b>resource</b> 44:15 46:8,14 61:16 <b>resources</b> 12:13 26:3 43:3,7,14,15 43:17,18,25 45:15 46:25 48:6,14,15 <b>respond</b> 72:15 <b>responding</b> 76:4 <b>response</b> 12:10 <b>responses</b> 4:21 51:14 78:16 <b>rest</b> 27:21 83:4 <b>restoration</b> 6:25	<b>restrictions</b> 62:17 <b>result</b> 8:6 43:10 44:22 45:3 47:2 47:10 49:8 71:7 71:18,21 <b>return</b> 67:6 <b>reveal</b> 43:8 <b>revealed</b> 48:7 <b>review</b> 4:14 37:9 37:13,18,21,23 38:6 51:5 <b>ridiculous</b> 8:17 <b>right</b> 13:8 17:14 19:18,25 23:11,11 24:24 25:14 28:22 29:6,19,21 30:8 32:21 33:21,25 34:13,25 36:5 43:16 57:16 61:12 76:23 <b>rise</b> 11:9 14:2 41:13 69:19 80:20 <b>risen</b> 69:16 <b>rising</b> 83:9 <b>risk</b> 11:4,25 12:7 66:3 <b>river</b> 47:4,22 <b>riverbed</b> 81:13 <b>roads</b> 67:4 <b>robinson</b> 2:9 68:7 68:8,11,12 <b>robust</b> 33:6 <b>roof</b> 27:4 <b>roughly</b> 13:22 <b>row</b> 7:25 <b>run</b> 17:9 58:10 59:13 85:10 <b>running</b> 67:3 <b>runs</b> 10:14 81:19	<b>s</b> <b>s</b> 1:18,18 2:2,2 <b>safe</b> 71:22 <b>safety</b> 62:21 67:9 <b>salvage</b> 21:11 <b>sandy</b> 7:2,17 59:10 61:25 67:2 68:22 69:3 81:10 84:25 <b>saw</b> 57:12 60:21 <b>saying</b> 69:7 <b>schools</b> 8:9 66:24 <b>scope</b> 27:22 <b>scoping</b> 38:14,16 38:17,20 <b>screen</b> 10:8 17:18 17:20 35:7 41:16 <b>screened</b> 18:19 <b>sculptural</b> 30:19 <b>sculpture</b> 25:14 <b>sculptures</b> 23:5 25:12 <b>se</b> 68:13 <b>sea</b> 11:8 13:25 41:12 69:15,18 71:8,11 80:20 81:11,17 83:9 <b>seaport</b> 64:23,24 64:25 <b>seasonal</b> 33:7 <b>seating</b> 27:13 31:21 33:12 34:15 <b>seatings</b> 19:20 <b>second</b> 25:20 31:24 36:15 41:6 44:13 77:5 81:9 <b>seconds</b> 52:11 <b>section</b> 15:4 31:2 41:25 43:10 <b>see</b> 8:7 10:9,13 12:25 13:19 14:2
--	--	--	--

14:4 17:19,20 18:4,11,23 21:7,22 23:12 24:6 25:11 29:18,21 30:5 32:13 34:4,11 35:7 57:17 62:12 70:7 72:17 74:22 75:7 81:5,22 83:14 <b>seeing</b> 57:21 83:10 <b>seeks</b> 20:13 <b>seen</b> 54:18 76:18 <b>segments</b> 15:18 41:16,23 <b>select</b> 45:22 <b>selected</b> 21:15 22:12 <b>selection</b> 23:5 <b>send</b> 36:25 79:11 <b>senior</b> 9:23 <b>sense</b> 18:20 27:5 <b>separately</b> 77:25 <b>separation</b> 34:6 <b>september</b> 38:15 <b>seqr</b> 37:18,20 42:11 51:2 <b>sequence</b> 18:2 <b>series</b> 15:10 16:11 18:15 33:6,21 64:4 <b>seriously</b> 83:17 <b>serve</b> 67:23 <b>service</b> 49:16 <b>servicing</b> 65:16 <b>serving</b> 61:17 64:2 <b>sessions</b> 8:14 <b>set</b> 29:2,11 33:24 44:3 88:18 <b>seven</b> 13:9,23 <b>seventh</b> 7:25	<b>severe</b> 7:15 61:24 <b>severing</b> 66:7 <b>sewer</b> 35:24 36:13 36:18 <b>sewers</b> 66:6 <b>shades</b> 24:25 <b>shading</b> 24:22 25:4 31:22 <b>shah</b> 2:15 84:17,18 <b>share</b> 17:17 <b>shared</b> 4:4 <b>sheindlin</b> 57:9 72:16 77:17 <b>shock</b> 55:16 56:18 <b>shoreline</b> 20:14,17 65:19 <b>short</b> 42:15,19 85:11 <b>shortly</b> 4:8 <b>shout</b> 58:18 <b>show</b> 19:5 31:18 31:25 35:4 39:15 <b>showing</b> 13:21 27:25 71:13 <b>shown</b> 47:16 <b>shows</b> 8:4 15:16 <b>shpo</b> 44:10,18,24 46:19 <b>shut</b> 66:24 <b>side</b> 10:9,15 13:18 13:24 15:20,21 23:17 29:19 30:11 36:5 48:7 81:13 <b>sidewalk</b> 27:18 28:3,4 33:2 <b>signage</b> 47:18 55:4 <b>signature</b> 88:22 <b>signed</b> 84:8 <b>significance</b> 45:20 <b>significant</b> 43:9,13 46:7,13 47:2,8	48:8,13 49:9 50:15 <b>significantly</b> 44:16 <b>signing</b> 73:12 <b>signs</b> 55:11 74:3 <b>similar</b> 30:3 34:21 46:15 <b>site</b> 13:4 22:9 46:9 46:10 <b>sitting</b> 18:14 <b>situations</b> 45:14 <b>six</b> 13:22 16:17 48:21 <b>slide</b> 6:7 7:12 8:3 8:12 9:5 12:3,21 12:25 13:14 14:8 15:15,16 77:23 84:7 <b>slides</b> 54:18 <b>slight</b> 30:23 <b>slightly</b> 4:7 24:3 <b>slowly</b> 24:6 <b>small</b> 67:7 <b>smith</b> 1:24 53:19 57:10,21 <b>soccer</b> 85:14 <b>social</b> 19:19 22:5 34:15,15,18 <b>socioeconomic</b> 42:12,22 <b>solar</b> 21:16 <b>sold</b> 69:5 <b>solid</b> 39:18 <b>solution</b> 62:24 <b>soon</b> 40:20 72:12 <b>sorry</b> 9:18 35:18 54:5,9 <b>sort</b> 30:6 <b>south</b> 1:3 3:5 10:6 10:18,22 11:2,10 12:9 15:17 19:23	20:18,19 23:8,20 24:6,13 28:23 29:6 33:23 47:6 61:4 87:17 <b>southern</b> 28:19 59:2,12 60:4,9 <b>space</b> 12:13 15:9 26:3 48:14 49:10 50:11 63:6 67:16 70:7 74:7 85:11 85:18,22,23 86:2,5 <b>spaces</b> 8:9 50:6 74:19 85:9,9 86:4 <b>span</b> 15:11 69:22 <b>speak</b> 4:25 5:9 52:4 61:3 72:7 75:4 <b>speaker</b> 77:19 82:10 <b>speakers</b> 72:14 77:22,25 78:3,4 79:19,21 80:4 84:4,16 86:19 87:5,13 <b>speaking</b> 5:16 52:8 53:2 <b>specifically</b> 13:6 15:19 <b>specified</b> 11:25 <b>spend</b> 80:25 81:23 <b>spoken</b> 79:22 87:8 ss 88:4 <b>stacy</b> 2:10 70:14 70:20 <b>stage</b> 55:2 71:4 <b>stairs</b> 23:11,12 33:24,25 <b>stakeholders</b> 8:16 8:23 <b>start</b> 14:15 17:16 17:22 27:18 29:18
--	---	--	--

48:23 <b>started</b> 53:12 <b>starting</b> 15:20 18:9 <b>state</b> 7:18 9:8 37:17,22,25 42:11 44:4,9 49:23 51:25 66:19 73:20 88:4,8 <b>stated</b> 69:24 <b>statement</b> 1:3 3:5 5:5 6:4 38:22 39:6 45:19 46:22 50:20 51:3,19 78:20,25 87:17 <b>states</b> 45:10 <b>statue</b> 19:21 22:14 34:24 47:14,23 <b>stenographic</b> 88:11 <b>step</b> 6:22 <b>steps</b> 33:22,24 34:16,18 <b>stipulations</b> 46:20 <b>stone</b> 21:13 30:18 <b>stop</b> 55:24 <b>storm</b> 8:6 11:13 12:10 13:25 36:13 40:10,15,16 62:5 64:11 65:21 80:18 80:24 81:4 <b>storms</b> 7:15 <b>strategic</b> 62:8 <b>strategist</b> 1:15 <b>street</b> 1:15 3:14 5:21 27:17,19 28:16 36:15,24 39:16 41:9,11 49:23,23 53:9 79:5	<b>strike</b> 69:10 <b>striking</b> 19:21 <b>stronger</b> 65:8 <b>structures</b> 36:23 <b>stuck</b> 71:19 <b>students</b> 61:18 <b>study</b> 36:4 39:8,9 39:23 40:7,12,19 69:13 <b>subject</b> 40:15 44:2 <b>submit</b> 5:17 53:5 79:2 <b>submitting</b> 77:2 <b>subtle</b> 27:11 <b>subtly</b> 24:4 <b>subways</b> 67:3 <b>summarize</b> 37:15 <b>summary</b> 38:11 <b>summer</b> 6:6 51:21 55:10 74:10 78:22 <b>support</b> 63:24 74:15 85:3 <b>sure</b> 57:14 66:23 67:13 72:16 74:2 <b>surface</b> 13:3,9,21 <b>surge</b> 11:8 19:15 36:4 65:21 <b>surprised</b> 71:2 73:22 <b>surrounded</b> 25:5,6 <b>surrounding</b> 55:17 63:9 <b>survey</b> 45:7 <b>survive</b> 83:6 <b>sustainability</b> 4:13 7:10 58:25 <b>sustainable</b> 21:5 21:10 26:16 27:3 <b>sustained</b> 61:24 <b>system</b> 12:6 36:9 62:19 63:3	<b>systems</b> 22:18 26:20  <b>t</b> <b>t</b> 88:2,2 <b>take</b> 8:7 9:17 48:24 51:11 82:25 83:17 85:5 <b>taken</b> 50:2 <b>talk</b> 39:7 <b>talked</b> 43:4 <b>targets</b> 26:8 <b>tasks</b> 48:22,23 <b>team</b> 3:20 9:25 37:3,7 41:22 <b>telephone</b> 57:13 72:18 <b>tell</b> 53:15,24 <b>temporarily</b> 50:4 <b>temporary</b> 42:19 48:2 50:14 <b>ten</b> 65:9 <b>term</b> 42:14,15,17 42:19 67:9 <b>terrace</b> 20:7 <b>territories</b> 45:10 <b>testify</b> 58:14 70:12 <b>testimony</b> 72:2 <b>thank</b> 3:2 6:19 9:12,14,19 16:8,9 17:21 35:16,19 37:3,4 51:10 52:12 54:8,13 55:24,25 56:10 57:5,7 60:12,17,18 60:19,25 63:11,13 63:23 68:4,6 70:11,13,23 71:25 72:3,4 73:2 74:10 74:12,20,21 75:22 77:3 79:16 80:9 81:23,25 82:4	83:19,20 84:7,18 86:10,11 87:15 <b>thanks</b> 63:19 <b>thing</b> 34:17 <b>things</b> 6:15 9:15 21:19 25:19 <b>think</b> 25:7 54:23 55:10,18,24 57:10 57:22 74:16 80:14 82:9,13 83:2,15 <b>thinking</b> 71:21 <b>third</b> 36:16 62:19 <b>thorough</b> 73:4 <b>thought</b> 73:3 <b>thoughtful</b> 63:4 <b>threat</b> 64:12 70:4 <b>threats</b> 65:20 <b>three</b> 4:25 36:10 36:12 43:10 51:24 52:13 53:4 54:23 84:22 <b>thrive</b> 67:7 <b>tidal</b> 64:10 65:22 71:7 <b>tide</b> 36:12,16 <b>tie</b> 11:16 <b>tiers</b> 34:7 <b>ties</b> 15:13 <b>time</b> 5:6 6:12,15 11:14 35:13 48:24 52:16 55:23 56:24 77:20,24 78:14 79:21 81:7 85:2 87:25 <b>timeline</b> 38:11 <b>times</b> 66:25 <b>tip</b> 13:8 <b>tirelessly</b> 75:20 <b>today</b> 5:3 9:20 13:20 16:10 30:14 33:18,19 34:15,21
--	--	--	---

82:14,17 <b>today's</b> 12:4 <b>tommaso</b> 74:23 <b>tomorrow</b> 17:13 35:16 <b>tones</b> 30:14 <b>tonight</b> 3:11,17 4:19,24 5:6,10 6:21 37:8 51:8,22 52:16,21 59:19 72:8 77:7 78:14 78:25 83:22 86:23 <b>tonight's</b> 3:9,10,15 4:2,6 6:2 51:12,17 86:21 87:22 <b>tony</b> 25:12 <b>top</b> 14:23 18:14 22:24 27:6 <b>topography</b> 12:24 13:4,6 <b>town</b> 8:24 <b>townley</b> 59:18 <b>tracking</b> 62:18 <b>traditionally</b> 50:2 <b>transcription</b> 88:11 <b>transition</b> 17:2 32:14 <b>transmission</b> 17:15 <b>transmitted</b> 17:7 <b>transportation</b> 41:8 66:5 <b>treatment</b> 21:14 29:22 30:18 33:16 <b>treatments</b> 22:22 28:14,15 30:13 <b>trees</b> 32:22 <b>trend</b> 8:2 <b>tribeca</b> 84:21	<b>tribecian</b> 68:16 <b>tries</b> 81:20 <b>triple</b> 26:14 <b>troubled</b> 85:4 <b>trying</b> 54:19 <b>tsunami</b> 71:6 <b>turn</b> 6:15 9:13,15 17:5,18 24:10 30:23 31:18 51:6 <b>turned</b> 81:12 <b>turning</b> 24:19 28:22 29:5 <b>turquoise</b> 13:20 <b>two</b> 11:16 14:18 34:7 36:12,19 40:23 43:15 47:3 48:5 64:21 69:4 80:10 <b>type</b> 26:8 <b>types</b> 36:11	<b>university</b> 7:18 <b>unmute</b> 52:2 53:14,20 56:5,6 <b>unmuted</b> 53:17 <b>unmuting</b> 53:23 <b>unobstructed</b> 47:14 <b>unprotected</b> 65:20 <b>update</b> 54:14 <b>upper</b> 22:23 <b>urban</b> 43:17 46:24 47:10,11 <b>urgent</b> 8:8 62:4 <b>use</b> 23:2 24:23 31:15 34:8 62:25 <b>users</b> 46:11 <b>uses</b> 65:16 <b>utilities</b> 66:6 <b>utilizes</b> 11:19	<b>virtual</b> 3:25 38:16 <b>virtually</b> 1:7 <b>vision</b> 65:8 <b>visit</b> 67:24 <b>visitors</b> 61:17 62:20 <b>visual</b> 43:18 46:25 47:11,19 <b>voice</b> 74:8 <b>vulnerable</b> 7:13 40:9
	<b>u</b>	<b>v</b>	<b>w</b>
	<b>u</b> 1:18 2:2 65:10 <b>ultimate</b> 33:15 <b>ultimately</b> 22:6 46:17 <b>unavoidable</b> 42:24 49:9 <b>underneath</b> 35:25 <b>underpass</b> 41:8,9 <b>underpasses</b> 41:12 <b>understand</b> 13:16 14:11 21:24 29:15 81:14 <b>understanding</b> 16:22 80:16 <b>underutilized</b> 86:6 <b>united</b> 45:9 <b>universal</b> 21:5 28:7 31:9,20 <b>universally</b> 28:24 29:8 33:9 34:19	<b>valves</b> 36:20 <b>various</b> 19:13 31:11,19 <b>vega</b> 2:13 80:6,7,9 <b>vegetated</b> 28:12 <b>vehicles</b> 67:5 <b>vein</b> 76:12 <b>veracity</b> 18:16 <b>verbal</b> 4:19 <b>vibration</b> 62:18 <b>vice</b> 1:13 61:9 63:20 75:13 <b>vicinity</b> 12:9 47:5 <b>video</b> 17:8,18 73:4 <b>videos</b> 17:6,12 <b>view</b> 12:14 22:12 22:13 26:4 47:14 47:22 <b>viewing</b> 35:13 <b>views</b> 19:21 34:23 47:9	<b>wagner</b> 12:16 13:6 15:2,23 16:18 17:24 18:23 19:7 20:20,23 26:7 28:8 32:4,8 33:23 39:11 40:13 44:12 44:15,22 45:16 46:4,11 47:5,13,18 48:25 49:4 50:3,5 55:17 68:17,25 69:24 74:19 <b>walk</b> 19:23 21:2 28:2,4 29:16 33:4 <b>walking</b> 18:3 <b>walkthrough</b> 20:25 32:7 <b>walkthroughs</b> 16:11 17:17 <b>walkway</b> 47:21 <b>wall</b> 14:24 15:13 15:14 18:12 28:15 31:4 81:11,17 <b>walls</b> 15:6 30:17 71:8,11 <b>want</b> 13:4 35:22 55:21 56:14 63:11 68:21 71:23 72:5 72:13 73:2 74:2 74:25 75:22,25

76:23 77:16 78:24 79:11 <b>wanted</b> 19:8 27:18 31:25 35:4 54:24 60:3,11 70:22 71:3 76:12 <b>warranted</b> 42:16 <b>watch</b> 77:10 <b>watching</b> 17:8 <b>water</b> 12:15 26:25 66:6 81:19 <b>waterfront</b> 18:6 19:10 20:3 26:5 47:4,23 <b>waterfronts</b> 20:17 63:21 68:3 <b>wave</b> 71:7 <b>way</b> 10:14 20:18 23:7,8,18 24:13 30:8 31:13 62:14 63:5 81:6,7 88:15 <b>wayfinding</b> 47:17 47:18 <b>ways</b> 4:18 5:17 21:7 27:12 85:17 <b>we've</b> 6:23 8:13,24 16:10,25 23:3 29:24 32:2 54:22 75:19 <b>webinar</b> 5:13 52:24 72:11 79:25 83:25,25 84:13 86:16 87:2,10 <b>website</b> 4:11 38:24 46:8 <b>week</b> 76:14 <b>welcome</b> 3:2 <b>wendy</b> 1:25 53:14 53:14,17,19,22 54:4,8 76:6	<b>wendy's</b> 56:15 <b>west</b> 15:20 36:23 39:15 41:9,11 49:23 81:12 <b>westchester</b> 88:5 <b>western</b> 10:15 <b>wharf</b> 65:2,3 <b>whereof</b> 88:17 <b>wide</b> 18:25 35:3 66:20 <b>wish</b> 5:10 84:9 <b>witness</b> 88:17 <b>wonder</b> 79:15 <b>wonderful</b> 23:4 25:16 32:12 60:25 <b>work</b> 6:25 7:6 9:6 36:7,11 55:14 58:9,19 61:15 62:4,12 63:12 67:24 73:19 75:23 <b>worked</b> 22:19 71:10 75:19 76:8 <b>working</b> 54:22 55:5,8 62:24 <b>works</b> 73:23 80:15 <b>worry</b> 17:13 <b>worse</b> 7:17 <b>worth</b> 69:6 <b>wrap</b> 52:11 <b>wrapped</b> 20:6 <b>writing</b> 79:3 <b>written</b> 5:18	<b>years</b> 7:21 8:14 54:19,20,22 65:9 69:5,15 70:4 73:24 75:19 76:5 <b>york</b> 5:21,22 9:22 11:20 20:15 37:17 41:2,7 44:3 53:9 53:10 63:22 69:15 79:6,6 82:11 88:4 88:8 <b>yorkers</b> 67:23 <b>young</b> 84:22 <b>youth</b> 58:10,12 59:7,17 60:10
		<b>z</b>
		<b>zero</b> 26:9 <b>zoom</b> 1:7 5:13 52:23 72:10 75:5 79:25 83:25 84:13 87:2
	<b>x</b>	
	<b>x</b> 1:2,7	
	<b>y</b>	
	<b>yeah</b> 58:4 <b>year</b> 7:25 8:6 11:6 11:13 13:25 40:10 42:8 48:5 69:17 69:20,22 80:18	