



Battery Park City Authority

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Contact: Nick Sbordone
(212) 417-3194

BATTERY PARK CITY AUTHORITY INSTITUTES PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AT BOARD MEETINGS

Comment Sessions to Begin at November Meeting of the Members

The Battery Park City Authority (BPCA) Board today instituted a full public comment period at Board Meetings, effective immediately. As a result, the next meeting of the BPCA Board, to be scheduled in November 2016, will feature a comment period during which up to 10 individuals may be allocated time to address the Members on any topic of interest to them. The BPCA will also make the agendas for Board Meetings available at least 48 hours in advance of scheduled meetings to facilitate public review. This policy replaces the prior practice of permitting written public comment for inclusion in the Board Meeting minutes, and is in addition to the town hall-style, open community meetings BPCA conducts for Battery Park City residents on a quarterly basis.

“Today we’re glad to further expand the avenues of participation at Battery Park City Authority Board Meetings with a full public comment period at every session,” said **BPCA Chairman and CEO Dennis Mehiel**. “And as we proceed I look forward to striking the appropriate balance between taking public input and transacting other Board business as effectively as possible. I thank Senator Squadron and our other local elected officials, the Members of the Board, and BPCA staff for their diligence and commitment to building an even stronger relationship with the community we serve.”

Details about public comment period at Board Meetings is as follows, and is also available on [BPCA's website](#):

- A public comment period will be scheduled during each BPCA Board Meeting at a time on the agenda determined by the Chairman.
- Anyone wishing to speak during the public comment period of a BPCA Board Meeting should make a request via email to boardcomment@bpca.ny.gov by no later than 5:30pm on the business day prior to the meeting. Requests should include either the agenda item on which they wish to comment, or a description of the matter(s) on which they wish to comment.

- Each speaker during the public comment period will be provided two minutes to provide his or her comments.
- There will be up to 10 speakers allocated time to speak during any public comment period.
- If there are more than 10 speakers, priority will be given on a first-come, first-served basis to those who have submitted comment requests. The BPCA Board reserves the right to prioritize comments that have not been previously raised.

“I am so pleased that the Battery Park City Authority has unanimously approved the addition of a public commentary session during Board Meetings, as I, my fellow elected officials and the community have long urged,” said **Congressman Jerrold Nadler**. “Thank you to the Authority for taking this significant step forward to foster and encourage community engagement and representation in the Battery Park neighborhood. I would also like to thank State Senator Squadron, Assemblymembers Glick and Cancel, Borough President Brewer and Councilmember Chin for all of their hard work in securing this important victory for the community.”

“For months I’ve worked with community members and colleagues on a simple request: to allow the community to publicly comment directly on public issues that directly affect the Battery Park City community,” said **State Senator Daniel Squadron**. “Today, the Battery Park City Authority Board unanimously agreed to allow direct public comment, and release Board Meeting agendas in advance – instituting our request. This is a huge step for community voices in Battery Park City, and I sincerely thank Chair Mehiel, President Hyman, the full Authority Board, the Battery Park City community, Community Board 1, ‘Democracy4BPC,’ Congressmember Nadler, Assemblymembers Glick and Cancel, Borough President Brewer, Council Member Chin, and Assembly nominee Niou.”

“I am pleased that the Battery Park City Authority agreed to post agendas in advance and allow community members to provide public comment at Board meetings, as we have long encouraged,” said **Assemblymember Deborah J. Glick**. “This momentous change will allow community members to have an active role in the community they helped build and allow more residents to have a stake in BPC through a more public and transparent process. I applaud Battery Park City community members for their advocacy on this issue, and thank the Board of the Battery Park City Authority for opening up their meetings to allow residents to publicly engage in decisions that impact their daily lives.”

“I’m fully supportive of the move toward public comment at Battery Park City Authority Board Meetings, and thank the BPCA Board and my colleagues in elective office for working to make it a reality, said **Assemblymember Alice Cancel**. “Together, I’m certain we can continue building strong the relationships that come from active community engagement.”

“In order to preserve what makes Battery Park City great, all of us must work together,” said **Council Member Margaret S. Chin**. “Today, the Battery Park City Authority has taken meaningful action to allow direct public comment, and to publish meeting agendas in advance. For residents of Battery Park City, this should come as a welcome decision that acknowledges their right to be informed and to be heard. I thank my colleagues in government and community members for joining me to push for these important changes that I hope will have a positive impact on the BPCA’s decision making process.”

BPCA Board Meetings are open to the public as well as streamed live and archived on [BPCA’s website](#). The BPCA Board meets at 200 Liberty Street, 24th Floor.

Open Community Meetings are held quarterly at 6 River Terrace in Battery Park City. The next BPC Open Community Meeting is scheduled for November, 9, 2016 at 6pm.

About BPCA: The Hugh L. Carey Battery Park City Authority is a New York State public benefit corporation with a mission to plan, create, coordinate, and maintain a balanced community of commercial, residential, retail, and park space within its designated 92-acre site on the lower west side of Manhattan. For more info visit: bpca.ny.gov

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