

TESTIMONY OF ELLEN R. IMBIMBO ON BEHALF OF MURRAY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

PUBLIC SCOPING HEARING

EMERGENCY VENTILATION PLANT FOR LEXINGTON AVENUE SUBWAY LINE

JUNE 16, 2016

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you here today. My name is Ellen Imbimbo and I am an Honorary Trustee of the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association on whose behalf I speak to you.

Grow we must and New Yorkers must, at one time or another, suffer the consequences of being participants in that growth. However, since this subject has been studied since 1994 we are surprised at the sudden notification received from you regarding this meeting, and a deadline of July 1 for comments on the scoping, particularly when you've already come to the conclusion that the impacts are sufficient to warrant a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and may further require an Environmental Impact Statement. We firmly believe that participation by local communities adds a dimension to planning that is irreplaceable. Having said that we would very much appreciate your responses to the following questions.

- Given the central location of Park Avenue in the 30's and its lead-in to the Midtown Tunnel, a traffic study is essential to gauge the disruption to traffic during the construction period. How will traffic be re-routed? It is important that you provide the details of your traffic mitigation methods and how they might vary during the years of construction.
- What is the nature of construction equipment: cranes, concrete delivery trucks, materials that is piled up on the sidewalk (we've long been witness to East Side Access activity). Where will they be stored?
- Dispersion of smokey air into the neighborhood from the ventilation plant were there to be an emergency, could cause harmful air-quality problems for residents. Please define the level of those air-quality issues. What is the alarm system to be used in warning streetside pedestrians and traffic of an emergency? Have you any plans in the event of a terrorist attack?
- Murray Hill is an historic district with landmarked buildings. You indicated you would be measuring the degree of vibrations with small monitors. Please indicate how those vibrations would be collected and disseminated throughout the community. What mitigation will be provided for any damage to historic buildings? The historic district?
- How long will this construction take? Do you plan to have community meetings periodically to update the community on the status of construction.
- We still await the completion of the East Midtown Access construction site at 37th & Park despite having been given numerous deadlines. Please provide the latest information.
- Murray Hill will lose 7 mature trees during construction. Will there be any remediation for the loss of these trees? What about damage to the malls on which MHNA spends considerable time and effort in maintaining?

We thank you again for providing an opportunity to speak. And hope that we can be collaborators in an important project for the safety of New Yorkers.