

Testimony for the Council of  
The City of New York  
Committee on Waterfronts  
**RE: Int. No. 809 – In Relation to the City Planning Commission.**  
Thursday, September 25, 2008

Testimony of: Frank M. McDonough, Esq., President  
New York Shipping Association, Inc.

The New York Shipping Association, Inc. (NYSA), which represents the ocean carriers, terminal operators, and other maritime industry related employers in the Port of New York & New Jersey, would like to applaud the members of the New York City Council's Committee on Waterfronts, for undertaking to amend the New York city charter related to the City Planning Commission, to add a provision to develop a comprehensive plan for the future of the city's waterfront resources.

From the city's inception, the waterfront has been the primary contributing factor to the city's greatness. The New York waterfront has provided access for the goods and people who helped build this country into the world power that it is. Amending the charter to include provision for developing a plan for the best usage of the waterfront resources in the future can only serve to insure the city's continued greatness as an international center for maritime commerce. Development of a comprehensive waterfront plan will also insure that waterfront assets in the form of public and natural areas will be properly developed, enhanced, and preserved as amenities for the citizens of New York City, and the millions of visitors who come from all over the world.

To insure the long-term viability of the maritime use waterfront assets, about which we are most concerned, we concur with those who recommend that any waterfront plan must include:

- An inventory of the number and location of all maritime uses throughout the region.
- An updated dataset or study of the economic impact of maritime uses of the waterfront.
- Establishment of a forum of high-level decision-makers and users to improve communication and coordination among maritime industry leaders, government agencies, and waterfront users and customers.
- A plan and the means of protecting maritime industry assets developed in cooperation with decision-makers and the maritime industry. The plan should seek to identify incentives to maintain and grow maritime uses, as well as develop strategies to prevent their displacement.

More specifically we suggest that any planning consider the following:

- General public access to our waterways for our citizens.
- Access to our waterways in the event of emergency evacuation.
- Recreational access for swimmers, boats and small watercraft.
- Protection of marinas, landings and launch ramps.
- Protection of scenic water tours.
- Protection of essential port support services.
- Security of water related activities.
- Protection of upland infrastructure.
- Protection of the environment through use of the marine highway system.
- Reduced impact on regional infrastructure through utilization of waterborne assets.
- Protection of high-paying maritime jobs.
- Expansion of ferry commuting and initiation of cargo ferry operations.
- Expansion of commercial port operations.
- Protection of commercial/recreational/sustenance fishing and aquaculture.
- Expansion of passenger vessel (cruise) operations.
- Protection of community character, aesthetics, and social value.
- Improved assessment of waterfront assets to include indirect as well as direct benefits.
- Improved zoning regulations with priority for waterborne uses; and/or
- Mandate the protection of waterborne uses through Special Area Designation.
- Improved and expedited permitting processes for waterborne activities.
- Invest a single agency with responsibility and authority.
- Mandate long-term planning.
- Encourage regional coordination

Again, the NYSA is in total support of the Council of the City of New York's effort to develop a comprehensive waterfront development plan. We look forward to working closely with the Council in the development of a plan for the maximum utilization, preservation, and protection of New York City's waterfront assets.