

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SAVE OUR SEAPORT DECRIES THE USE OF “FAKE FACTS” BY
THE NYC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SEEKING TO JUSTIFY THE
IMMINENT DEMOLITION OF THE NEW (FULTON FISH) MARKET BUILDING IN
NEW YORK CITY’S HISTORIC SOUTH STREET SEAPORT**

(New York, NY) January 8, 2018 –

An Open Letter to the New York City Economic Development Corporation (“EDC”):

Dear Ms. Shavone Williams,

Manhattan Community Board One Chairperson Anthony Notaro has informed SAVE OUR SEAPORT (“SOS”) that: *“everyone knew the New Market building was in very bad shape and something needed to be done but EDC never came to us until this week saying they had made a decision (on their own). Frankly, CB1 have never heard anything “...on the demolition timeline”.*

As such we would like to know why you, as the spokesperson for the NYC Economic Development Corporation, would resort to an incorrect and misleading statement in the REAL DEAL (01.04.18) as a guise to look more transparent and justify, the “imminent” demolition of the New (Fulton Fish) Market Building in the NYS Historic South Street Seaport District.

We understand that there has been a substantial turn-over in both leadership and staff at EDC as the Mayor begins his second term, but that is hardly an excuse to make unilateral plans without informed consultation by stakeholders.

SOS further notes the “bad optics” of this city-sponsored demolition, as an attempt to absolve the Howard Hughes Corporation of culpability as they struggle to position a construction crane to “relocate” the landmarked Tin Building.

We call upon EDC to issue a written correction to all of the media outlets that have run this story, and to reinstitute the SEAPORT WORKING GROUP to finish their unfinished work, including the future of this building site.

Sincerely,

SAVE OUR SEAPORT

March, 2015

SAVE OUR SEAPORT
A Vision for the New Fulton Fish Market Building
Preserving History and Building Toward the Future

The Howard Hughes Corporation's current redevelopment plan for the South Street Seaport is irresponsible and an unrealistic solution to the much-needed revitalization of the 11-block historic district. Our plan has 4 core components:

- Reinvigorate the South Street Seaport Museum
- Recreate a "Street of Ships"
- Repurpose contributing significant Historic Buildings
- Restore the quality of life with Community Amenities

The Howard Hughes Corp. does not own, lease, nor have they yet exercised lease "options" on the New Fulton Fish Market Building, piers 19-21 and other public-owned inland sites within the South Street Seaport Historic District.

1. In addition to the Museum's continued presence in Schermerhorn Row and on Water Street, the New Fulton Fish Market Building should be repurposed as a center of Maritime Activity and use the second floor (23,350 sf) for the SSSM gallery, public meeting and educational spaces and a possibility of performance/rehearsal/ studio space. Dedicate ground floor space for ship maintenance and projects.
2. Create berthings in the East River for visiting historic ships and/or a working waterfront, with control of ghost piers 12-14 and 19-21 to go to the South Street Seaport Museum for earned revenue.
3. Revive the Seaport Working Group to engage the Howard Hughes Corporation as one of many stakeholders in a Master Planning process.
4. Require ULURP approvals for downtown Developers to include a Community Benefit Agreement to renovate the New Fulton Fish Market Buildings and repair pier pilings and platform. Authorize the South Street Seaport Museum ("SSSM") to lease unused space creating a revenue stream and insuring certainty of SSSM operational cash flow.
5. A new governing authority, with local stakeholders, would replace the involvement of NYEDC in the Brooklyn Bridge Southeast Urban Renewal Plan district. It would act as the Landlord to the South Street Seaport and environs, (from The Battery to Pier 42).

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About *Save Our Seaport*

Save Our Seaport (“SOS”) is a grassroots organization that began primarily among South Street Seaport Museum volunteers and former staff, including its emeritus founding President, Peter Stanford. Since 2011, SOS has grown to include a broad array of citizens concerned with the preservation of the Museum, the Seaport Historic District, New York and American maritime history, the Museum ships and waterfront, and the District’s public markets.

SOS continues to defend the inherent character and public purpose of this neighborhood, seeks to ensure its revitalization, and opposes the imposition of development interests over those of residents and New Yorkers at large.

Visit our website: SaveOurSeaport.wordpress.com On Twitter: @SaveOurSeaport and on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SaveOurSeaport

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