

THE TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND

Fact Sheet: City Council Land Use Committee Approval of Modified South Island Rezoning Application

BACKGROUND:

The New York City Council Land Use Committee voted today to approve a proposal to rezone the Southern portion of Governors Island with modifications. The proposed rezoning, which certified into the City's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) in October 2020 would extend the Special Governors Island District to the Island's southern half, bringing the zoning for the South Island development sites as identified in the 2010 Master Plan in line with the long-envisioned uses for the Island outlined by its deed, including educational, non-profit and commercial facilities.

TODAY'S APPROVAL:

Following a public hearing held on April 5, 2021, the City Council Land Use Committee voted to approve the proposal with the following modifications:

- Reduction of overall density allowed on the South Island by 500,000 SF
- Caps on the square footage of commercial and hotel uses within the South Island development sites
- Reduction of maximum heights allowed within development parcels on the South Island, with building heights ranging from a maximum 125' to 225'
- Additional controls for park-related amenity uses within the South Island's open space
- Enhanced bicycle parking requirements for new tenancies within development sites

The Trust for Governors Island and the City of New York made additional commitments as part of the City Council's review, including commitments related to public engagement surrounding a future solicitation, equitable educational opportunities, quality jobs, ferry service, free ticket access, environmental sustainability and more.

STATEMENTS:

"Governors Island is a beautiful place to visit, and it houses some truly unique New York City treasures," said **Council Member Margaret Chin**. "In the many months of discussion and negotiation with the Trust, it has been my top priority that Governors Island retains its open and organic atmosphere and that newly created spaces complement the historic buildings that define the island's history. The modified proposal ensures a permanent location for compost processing, expands ferry service to the island, and ensures that uses in the open space subarea are aligned with those in public parkland. I am pleased that the current plan includes large reductions in density, and in some cases building height is scaled down by 100 feet. I am so

happy to see this moving forward and I urge my colleagues in Council to support this exciting proposal."

"We thank Council Member Chin, Chair Salamanca, the City Council Land Use Committee, Chair Moya and the Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises for their thoughtful review of our proposal", said **Clare Newman, President and CEO of the Trust for Governors Island**. "The Trust and the City of New York's vision to establish Governors Island as a leading center for education, research and public engagement surrounding the global climate crisis will place New York City at the forefront of one of the world's most pressing issues. Today's vote will support that vision, while supporting expanded public access and investment in Governors Island, and preserving and expanding our incredible park, ensuring it will be enjoyed by even more New Yorkers for generations to come."

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

In September 2020, The Trust for Governors Island announced a vision to establish Governors Island as a leading center for climate solutions to bring together opportunities for research, education and public engagement surrounding the global climate crisis. The proposed rezoning is envisioned to support the Trust's goals to establish a leading center for climate education and research, as well as the long-term goal of developing a sustainable revenue stream to support year-round public access and operations. In addition, the rezoning proposes to expand the Island's open space, increase public connections between the park and waterfront esplanade, and add an additional layer of protection for all open space on the South Island.

Governors Island is currently open to the public through October 31. For visitor and ferry information, visit govisland.org.

About The Trust for Governors Island

The Trust for Governors Island is the non-profit corporation created by the City of New York that is responsible for the redevelopment and operation of 150 acres of Governors Island. The Trust's mission is to realize the full potential of Governors Island for the inspiration and enjoyment of all New Yorkers, demonstrating a bold vision for public space.