



DISTRICT OFFICE:
101 LAFAYETTE ST., SUITE 903
NEW YORK, NY 10013
212-587-3159
FAX: (212) 587-3158

CITY HALL OFFICE:
250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1762
NEW YORK, NY 10007
(212) 788-7259

THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MARGARET S. CHIN
COUNCIL MEMBER, 1ST DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

CHAIR
AGING

COMMITTEES
HOUSING AND BUILDINGS
CONSUMER AFFAIRS
RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS
STANDARDS AND ETHICS
YOUTH SERVICES
SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
IMMIGRATION

**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****
MAY 27, 2021
Contact: Kana Ervin (917) 763-1444

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN AND CITY COUNCIL COLLEAGUES VOTE TO APPROVE PROPOSED REZONING OF GOVERNORS ISLAND

NEW YORK – Today, the New York City Council voted to approve a proposed rezoning of Governors Island by a vote of 44-3-1. The proposed rezoning of Governors Island concludes the Uniform Land Use Review Process (ULURP) after a short delay as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and many months of collaboration between Council Member Chin and the Trust for Governors Island.

For over a year, the Trust for Governors Island and City Council Member Margaret Chin engaged community stakeholders to devise a zoning plan that preserves the character of Governors Island and builds on the unique structures that currently exist there today. The City Council voted to approve the modified proposal, which includes compromises between the Trust and the community, including a reduction in the height and density of buildings and the preservation and expansion of public open space on the Island. Throughout the process, Council Member Margaret Chin advocated for and secured expansion of ferry service, which will help bring New Yorkers from all neighborhoods to enjoy the amenities and park space of Governors Island. This historic proposal also includes a large expansion of The Harbor School, including a new in-ground pool, gymnasium, and classroom space, as well as additional seats for New York City students.

The Trust for Governors Island and the City of New York have committed to releasing a solicitation for an educational or non-profit research institution to anchor the Climate Center in summer 2021. Protections were added to align and limit the Open Space Subarea to park related uses, and bulk controls ensure that new facilities surrounding the park will be in context with the existing area and will preserve viewpoints surrounding the park. The composting facility on Governors Island has been an integral part of the Island for urban farming, and the Trust for Governors Island has committed to work with Earth Matter NY, the nonprofit maintaining the existing compost yard, in reserving a designated potential future site for its long-term space needs and the Trust commits to composting all organic waste generated on the Island to achieve the goals of the Zero Waste Island Initiative.

Besides lowering building heights and an overall reduction of density, the proposed plan includes agreements with The Trust for Governors Island to require bicycle parking and study expanding cycling infrastructure, provide a minimum of 20 community benefit days and/or nights for qualifying organizations to access any future purpose-built convening space at-cost, a requirement for bird-friendly building materials, and commitments to ensuring equitable educational opportunities as part of the proposed Climate Center anchor institution.

"Throughout the rezoning process of Governors Island, I remained committed to creating a balanced plan that preserves the Island's character while growing some of the unique features that make it one of New York City's greatest treasures," said **Council Member Margaret Chin**. "This is an exciting new chapter for Governors Island. The modified proposal substantially decreases density of proposed buildings and prioritizes open space for public use. I am especially happy to see the expansion of the esplanade along the southern portion of the island, which will ensure the safety of cyclists and pedestrians. I am thrilled to see the Council approve this exciting project, and I encourage everyone to visit Governors Island. I'll be riding the next ferry from Wall Street as soon as I can!"

"We thank Council Speaker Corey Johnson, Council Member Margaret Chin, and the New York City Council for their thoughtful review and collaboration on this 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

climate education, research and public engagement will place New York City at the forefront of one of the world's most pressing issues. Today's vote not only supports that vision, but will allow for expanded public access to the Island year-round, investment in its historic buildings, and the long-term funding and preservation of our incredible park, ensuring it will be enjoyed by even more New Yorkers for generations to come."

"Council Member Chin has worked tirelessly to address the concerns raised by her community by reducing the size of project dramatically, putting in place new protections for the open space, and requiring a school if the project is to achieve its maximum density. I want to thank her for striking a thoughtful balance between financial stability for Governors Island and the protection of its precious open space," said **Speaker Corey Johnson**.

###