



DUMBO NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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**“THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE IS NOT FOR SALE;
RENOWNED HISTORIAN & AUTHOR, DAVID McCULLOUGH
URGES HALT TO THE DOCK STREET HIGH-RISE”**

“Brooklyn’s Bridge is our bridge, all of us. It is a national treasure and we must do our part as custodians. Please, let us take this responsibility to heart.” – David McCullough

Brooklyn, NY – Renowned historian, lecturer, Pulitzer Prize winning writer and author of *The Great Bridge*, David McCullough, along with a coalition of elected officials, community activists, local residents and preservationists will hold a rally on Wednesday, March 31st, beside the Brooklyn Bridge, to protest a proposed 18-story tower that will permanently destroy views of the Brooklyn Bridge, a National Historic Landmark, the fragile waterfront and the historic Empire stores.

“Dignity and grandeur are rare in the modern cityscape. And rare, too, is the prestige of history. And when all of that is present in one majestic, emblematic work, as it is so supremely in the Brooklyn Bridge, nothing should be permitted to diminish and compromise the effect,” asserts David McCullough.

The rally will start at 11:15AM at the corner of Water St. & Dock St. in DUMBO, Brooklyn. Councilman Bill DiBlasio will attend the rally. Other politicians have also been invited to attend. This event is open to all media outlets and the public at large.

“When the Land Use Committee of Community Board 2 voted down the Dock Street proposal, they did the right thing. While I have always been a strong advocate for affordable housing and environmentally sustainable development, as well as the dire need for a middle school in this area, it is our responsibility to weigh the long-term effects of this high rise development project,” said Councilmember David Yassky, whose district the proposed tower is located in. “This proposal is out of scale with its surroundings and will forever change the natural view of and from the Brooklyn Bridge, which is a National Historic Landmark and an important monument,” Yassky continued.

Councilmember Tony Avella, Chairman of the Zoning and Franchises Subcommittee, has also registered his opposition to the proposed Dock Street development. “In 2004, Two Trees came to my office with their proposed tower and at the time I said ‘It’s too tall, it’s too wide and too close to the Brooklyn Bridge.’ Now, they’ve come back with an even taller, wider proposed building which is still too close to the Brooklyn Bridge. The benefits that Two Trees is offering – the middle school, affordable housing units and ‘green’

building, which are all good things, were they not connected to this proposal – do not outweigh the burdens that an oversized project like this will create. Additionally, I will not support a proposed development that will negatively impact not only the Brooklyn Bridge, but two New York City landmark historic districts – DUMBO and Fulton Ferry Landing – and one of the most important state parks in the whole State of New York.”

Both the Brooklyn Bridge and the Brooklyn waterfront are areas of tremendous historic value. The Brooklyn Bridge was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964. There are fewer than 2,500 buildings, structures or sites nationwide meriting this designation. In 2007, Brooklyn’s Historic Industrial Waterfront – which includes DUMBO and Fulton Ferry Landing - was named One of America’s 11 Most Endangered Places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This designation cites the risk of out-of-scale development, saying that it would “permanently eras[e] what makes Brooklyn special to the growing number of residents who call this place home.”

Civic leaders and residents of DUMBO, Fulton Ferry, Vinegar Hill and Brooklyn Heights agree with the Community Board Land Use Committee’ recommendation that the site should be zoned R7B, which would create a 75-foot height limit for Dock Street. This would allow for sensible development to fit in contextually with the surrounding buildings in DUMBO, rather than overwhelm them.

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DUMBO Neighborhood Association (DNA) is a community-based, volunteer organization dedicated to preserving and improving the quality of life in DUMBO. For more information, visit www.dumbo-dna.org.

Fulton Ferry Landing Association (FFLA) is a community organization dedicated to preserving the unique history, architecture and quality of life in the neighborhood of the Brooklyn Bridge.

The Brooklyn Heights Association (BHA) is the organized voice of Brooklyn Heights dedicated to furthering public movements for the betterment of Brooklyn Heights and the Borough. For more information, visit www.brooklynheightsassociation.org.