



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: UNTIL JANUARY 31, 2016**

“Year Anniversary of CitiStorage Fire Ignites Call to Action to Complete Promised Park”  
Brooklyn, New York

Date: January 31, 2016

Time: Noon

Place: Corner of N.11<sup>th</sup> Street and Kent Avenue in Williamsburg, Brooklyn

Rain Location: Greenpoint Beer & Ale at corner of N.15<sup>th</sup> Street and Franklin Street

On January 31<sup>st</sup> 2015 a devastating 7-alarm fire engulfed CitiStorage, a records storage facility on the East River, and continued to smolder for two long months. The billowing smoke and specter of losing this last remaining parcel of land needed to complete Bushwick Inlet Park motivated open space advocates to fight for their community. On the fire’s one year anniversary, Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park, elected officials and community members will celebrate their accomplishments and continue to hold the City accountable for its 2005 rezoning promise to deliver a 27-acre waterfront park as mitigation for development that is ushering in a wall of high-rise towers and tens of thousands of new residents along the East River.

Rezoning and gentrification are reducing affordable housing and forcing residents out of North Brooklyn and yet the community is still waiting for infrastructure improvements like Bushwick Inlet Park. In spite of Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park’s many accomplishments, each day the North Brooklyn community faces the prospect of an as-of-right development at CitiStorage that could include a mall and offices in the heart of the promised waterfront park. During the past year all of the elected officials in Greenpoint-Williamsburg, Community Board 1, and Brooklyn’s Borough President have stood with Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park against any rezoning of the CitiStorage property. When news of the latest deal surfaced last month to build hi-rise residential towers on the 7.5 acre CitiStorage parcel, the Mayor came forward and said he would never support a rezoning against the wishes of Greenpoint-Williamsburg’s councilman and community.

However, after eleven years the City has not acquired the CitiStorage property as it continues to be a hot commodity available to developers.

When completed Bushwick Inlet Park and adjacent Monitor Museum Park will become one of the crown jewels in a necklace of a growing number of parks along the city’s waterfront and help complete the City’s comprehensive open space master plan. Increasing the amount of open space will add billions of dollars to the city’s investment portfolio, save the city millions in yearly medical costs, and reduce storm runoff keeping it out of an already overburdened sewage treatment system. Each day the prospect of losing the last large tract of open space on the East River looms ever larger. Friends of

Bushwick Park's mission is not over until the battle for a 27-acre waterfront park is won for the entire City of New York.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

[www.bushwickinletpark.org](http://www.bushwickinletpark.org)

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