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JO ANNE SIMON
Assemblymember 52nd District

February 27, 2019

Ms. Allison Dees
Senior Associate, Asset Management, PortNYC
New York City Economic Development Corporation
Via email to Adees@edc.nyc

Dear Ms. Dees:

I am writing to express my unequivocal support for the PortSide New York efforts to fulfill their long-standing vision of creating a dynamic, future-focused maritime center by expanding into the Pier 11 warehouse in Atlantic Basin, Red Hook, Brooklyn next to the tanker Mary A. Whalen.

Access to the Pier 11 warehouse as a permanent location for PortSide New York's programming would allow PortSide to expand its wide range of community work that includes, but is not limited to educating visitors of all ages on the dynamic nature of the waterfront through lessons on resiliency, waterfront history, and hands on STEM education. Shore space would also allow PortSide to transition from a pop-up primarily offering special events to a place offering year-round programs even during conditions, like rain and extreme weather, which currently limit use of the Mary A. Whalen. It would provide the opportunity for our city's working waterfront to engage with the creativity of Brooklyn and make PortSide an even more valuable asset to the Red Hook community and beyond.

Founded in 2005 to create a forward-looking maritime center combining a working waterfront, public access, and community development, PortSide New York has created an opportunity for New Yorkers and visitors from around the world to experience a piece of the past, present, and future of New York's waterfront. The Mary A. Whalen has been an exceptional asset for New York City students and programs like the African American Maritime Heritage program, Red Hook Water Stories, simple machine classes, and lessons on resiliency leave a lasting impression on the next generation.

I heartily support this expansion and it is my hope that PortSide will soon be able to continue their important work on land and sea as they continue to serve Brooklyn.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jo Anne Simon".

Jo Anne Simon
Member of Assembly