From: Stephen O"Brien
To: Waterways, DEP (DEP)
Subject: Downtown Municipal Harbor Plan
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Over the past few decades the City of Boston has done an admirable job of improving the Harbor waterfront with attractive commercial and housing construction. However, given that these properties are privately owned, this development has blocked public access to the Harbor for most of the citizens of Boston. What access there is tends to be only a narrow walkway between the buildings and the water. Relative few sites are left that can provide a significant amount of space for public use. As a resident of Charlestown, I would point to Pier 5 as one of the few examples. There are many parts of the city that are suitable for housing and commercial development. There are very few that provide the feeling of a very open space for recreation and relaxation that are available along the Harbor. I would strongly urge you to consider preserving these open spaces along the Harbor and to give special consideration to uses that through well conceived programs will draw residents to them to insure that they are truly open, equitable and inclusive.

Sincerely,

Stephen T. O'Brien
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