



# VILLAGE OF OSSINING

## Municipal Building

16 Croton Avenue  
Ossining, NY 10562

Tel: (914) 941-3554

Fax: (914) 941-5940

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

VICTORIA GEARITY  
Mayor

QUANTEL S. BAZEMORE

August 23, 2016

JOHN CODMAN III

RIKA LEVIN

MANUEL R. QUEZADA

Trustees

RDML Linda Fagan, District Commander  
United States Coast Guard, First Coast Guard District  
408 Atlantic Avenue  
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Opposition--Maritime Association of the Port of New York/New Jersey Tug & Barge Committee Request

Dear RDML Fagan:

Attached is a copy of a resolution which was passed unanimously on August 10, 2016 by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Ossining which stands as evidence of this Village's strong opposition to the US Coast Guard's potential designation of 2,400 acres of Hudson River Estuary as anchorage areas for commercial barges. The Village lends its voice to those of our fellow, equally concerned communities up and down the Hudson River and their residents who are speaking out against the notion of anchoring an ever-increasing number of barges in such close proximity to our shores. Such notion stands in contravention of years of effort to ecologically restore, revitalize and transform the historically industrialized Hudson riverfront into accessible, repurposed areas of enjoyment and recreation for the benefit of all.

If permitted, this action would affect the overall ecological health of the Hudson River as well as the quality of life in the Village of Ossining. The waterfront is a key component to the Village's economic revitalization efforts and its goal of increasing tourism. The inevitable scarring of the river bed through the use of heavy ground tackle and the increased risk of spills from crude oil transport or other accidents presents a tremendous concern for the Hudson's fragile ecosystems and all of the surrounding communities, like Ossining's, that have worked tirelessly to revitalize their economies. The presence of large barges alone presents many hazards to public safety, particularly with regard to boating, with its long-standing tradition and which has now undergone resurgence along the Hudson as the scenery and ecological health of the Hudson has improved. The addition of such a vast acreage of anchor sites is blatantly antithetical to the efforts that have earned the Hudson a coveted National Heritage Area designation. Although public forums have been added, we still have major concerns over the efficacy of claims made by the commercial vessel organizations, as well as the lack of a full environmental impact analysis. We ask that you fully investigate the validity of the claims and the environmental impacts posed by the commercial organizations' proposals.

Thank you.

On behalf of the Village Board,

  
Victoria Gearity  
Mayor

cc: Senator Kirsten Gillibrand  
Senator Charles E. Schumer  
Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey



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**TOWN OF OSSINING  
VILLAGE OF OSSINING  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**16 Croton Avenue**

Ossining, NY 10562

Phone (914) 762-8428

Fax (914) 941-0627

MARY ANN ROBERTS  
TOWN / VILLAGE CLERK

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO DESIGNATION OF 2,400 ACRES OF  
HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY AS ANCHORAGE AREAS FOR COMMERCIAL  
BARGES**

WHEREAS, the Village has recently been notified that the United States Coast Guard, in an effort to inform its own internal review, is taking public comment with respect to a proposal to designate 2,400 acres of Hudson River Estuary as anchorage areas for commercial barges along the Hudson shoreline from Yonkers to Kingston; and

WHEREAS, the designation of these new anchorage grounds, which would become water-based parking areas for commercial barges on the way to and from the ever-busier Port of Albany, portends an increase in barge traffic on the Hudson River, with the potential to affect the ecological health of the river and the quality of life of its riverfront communities, including the Village of Ossining; and

WHEREAS, such efforts by the Coast Guard would serve to re-industrialize the Hudson River in areas undergoing transformation, coastal revitalization and adaptive reuse more in keeping with stated local long-term waterfront goals and regional initiatives toward Hudson Valley tourism; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of these anchorages will cause noise and light pollution, produce river bed scarring of delicate river bottom habitat through the use of heavy ground tackle and congregate dangerous material, such as crude oil, directly adjacent to the shoreline; and

WHEREAS, this proposed action appears to be adverse to the policy set forth in the Village of Ossining Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP), adopted on July 2, 1991 and amended on March 16, 2011, and has the potential to adversely affect residents' quality of life, chill revitalization efforts and tourism, which, among other things, are dependent on protection and enhancement of the views along the waterfront area; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board of Trustees feels that all perspectives should be accounted for and public comments and community concerns should be considered during this initial phase of consideration by the U.S. Coast Guard and prior to the taking of formal action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees hereby voices its opposition to the proposal by the U.S Coast Guard to designate 2,400 acres of Hudson River Estuary as anchorage areas for commercial barges along the Hudson shoreline from Yonkers to Kingston; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board calls upon the U.S. Coast Guard to increase the ability for public comment through the scheduling and active promotion of additional public forums that are easily accessible throughout the affected area so that the community concerns over this complex proposal can be heard and integrated into the rulemaking process as early as possible; and

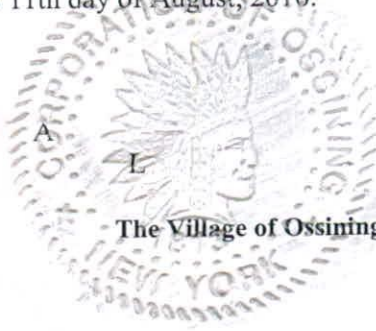
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees does hereby direct that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the members of the United States Congress representing the Village of Ossining and authorizes the Mayor to sign any and all correspondence on this topic to communicate the Village's concerns.

STATE OF NEW YORK ( )  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER ( ss.:  
VILLAGE OF OSSINING ( )

I, Mary Ann Roberts, Village Clerk of the Village of Ossining, Westchester County, New York, DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolutions adopted by the Village of Ossining Board of Trustees at a meeting held on the 10th day of August, 2016 and that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original thereof. I DO FURTHER CERTIFY Mayor Victoria Gearity, Trustees Rika Levin, Manuel Quezada, Quantel Bazemore and John Codman were present at such meeting and \_\_\_ was absent.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the VILLAGE OF OSSINING, THIS 11th day of August, 2016.

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*Mary Ann Roberts*

Mary Ann Roberts, Village Clerk

**The Village of Ossining is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer**