

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
LIAM J. McLAUGHLIN**

July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Rear Admiral Steven D. Poulin  
U.S. Coast Guard, Commander  
First Coast Guard District  
408 Atlantic Avenue  
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Admiral Poulin,

On behalf of the people of the great City of Yonkers, I write to you today to express our vehement opposition to the contemplated Yonkers extension anchorage ground as proposed in docket number USCG-2016-0132, originally promulgated by your predecessor RADM Fagan.

As you may be aware, Yonkers is garnering national acclaim for the work we have accomplished in rehabilitating our waterfront. In speaking with Yonkers residents, downtown business groups, environmental groups, local marine pilots, marina users including paddlers, kayakers and rowers, as well as those members of the public who access our riverfront, it is clear that the proposed rule would severely retard the progress we have made in recent years apropos our waterfront.

The contemplated anchorage encompasses waters whose navigational safety would be negatively and severely impacted by increasing vessel traffic in the area. On this basis alone, the proposed rule should be rejected.

There are myriad other reasons to disallow additional anchorages in Yonkers.


This section of the river is an urban river. From a homeland security standpoint, anchoring unmanned, unlit barges potentially carrying hazardous substances so close to one of the largest major metropolitan areas in the United States makes no sense. Yonkers Police lack the marine resources to adequately patrol and protect these vessels.

The many environmental remediation projects that are ongoing would also be adversely affected. Accommodating up to 16 vessels along 715 acres of our waterfront would heinously and irreparably adulterate our breathtaking panorama of the Palisades, which has drawn so many people to Yonkers during our great City's renaissance and revitalization.

Further, additional commercial traffic could harm wildlife habitat and the potential for spillage and floatables would impede the great progress we have made in returning the Hudson to the publicly-accessible treasure that it once was, and should be once again.

As a duly elected representative of the City of Yonkers, I wish to register my strongest possible opposition to proposed rule 2016-13701 and urge its disapproval. Should you have any questions, my door is always open to you. I remain,

Yours truly,



**LIAM J. McLAUGHLIN**  
Council President

CC:

Senator Chuck Schumer

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

Congressman Eliot Engel

Westchester County Soil & Water Conservation District

Mayor Mike Spano

✓Riverkeeper

Center for the Urban River at Beczak

Yonkers Green City Advisory Committee

Craig Lapiejko, USCG Waterways Management Branch