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**PETER W. DAVIDSON TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF BROOKLYN BRIDGE
PARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

ESD Executive Director Assumes Role of Chairman at Board Meeting on Thursday

The Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (BBPDC) today announced the appointment of Peter W. Davidson as Chairman of the BBPDC Board. Davidson joined Empire State Development (ESD) as Executive Director in October. Peter joined ESD to assume primary oversight of ESD's statewide subsidiaries and large-scale urban development projects. Davidson will assume his role as Chairman at the next Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, December 17.

This step will allow the State to continue its strong management and leadership of this dynamic project, which has undergone historic progress under the leadership of the Paterson administration. As a long-time Brooklyn resident, Davidson has both a personal and a professional commitment to the success of Brooklyn Bridge Park, and looks forward to working with the other members of the Board to continue its progress.

"Peter Davidson's appointment is the latest in the very visible progress occurring at Brooklyn Bridge Park," said Governor David A. Paterson. "This park is an example of the great things that we can do when the State and the City work together, and we can all be proud that after twenty five years, there will be a world-class waterfront park in Brooklyn. I know that Peter is the best choice to lead in this effort."

"Peter as Chairman is a great fit for Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, and I am pleased that he will represent New York State in our partnership with New York City to further the development of this great space. There's little doubt he will serve the Board well with his local knowledge, his business acumen, and his overall enthusiasm for the project," said Dennis M. Mullen, Chairman and CEO designate of Empire State

Development and Ex-Officio Chairman of Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation.

“We are delighted that Peter is stepping into the role of Chairman,” said Regina Myer, President of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation. “In the last few months Peter has demonstrated his support and his knowledge of the project and has met with both City and State elected officials and neighborhood groups. As we move ever closer to opening the first sections of the park this winter, I know that Peter will be on hand each step of the way – as a champion of the project, as well as a problem solver and a leader.”

“It is a thrill and a great privilege to assume the role of Chairman of the Board of BBPDC,” said Peter W. Davidson. “We are weeks away from opening the first parts of Pier 1. I share the excitement and gratification of all involved, and offer my congratulations in advance of this significant milestone. Even so, I am well aware of the decades-long effort that has brought us to this moment as well as the work that is yet to be done. I look forward to working with our partners in City government to see this extraordinary park fully realized in the next few years.”

Brooklyn Bridge Park is an 85-acre park stretching 1.3 miles along the East River from John Street, north of the Manhattan Bridge to Atlantic Avenue to the South. The borough’s largest destination park since Prospect Park was constructed in the 1860’s, Brooklyn Bridge Park will offer a spectacular landscape at the edge of the East River, inviting visitors to stroll, bike, boat, learn and play, all amid the backdrop of the stunning harbor and skyline views.

The park will be a sustainable landscape, featuring salvaged building materials, innovative storm-water management techniques, green roofs and restoration of wildlife habitat. With its rolling lawns, safe water harbors, inventive playgrounds, generous sports facilities and cultural programming, Brooklyn Bridge Park will transform the borough’s East River waterfront and become a key destination in New York Harbor. Visitors will be welcomed to the first open sections of Pier 1 this January.

Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation is a subsidiary of Empire State Development, New York’s chief economic development agency, encompassing business, workforce and community development. ESD also oversees the marketing of “I LOVE NY,” the State’s iconic tourism brand. For more information, visit www.brooklynbridgeparknyc.org.

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