



City of Detroit

COUNCILMAN ANDRÉ L. SPIVEY

February 22, 2016

Commandant (CG-BRG-2)
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Stop 7418
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20593-7418

Re: Public Notice 09-01-16, Ambassador Bridge Enhancement Project Permit Application

As I will not be able to attend the upcoming public hearing in Detroit with the U.S. Coast Guard regarding the DIBC permit application, please accept this correspondence as my vote of confidence in the DIBC to receive all necessary permits to begin construction of the twin span.

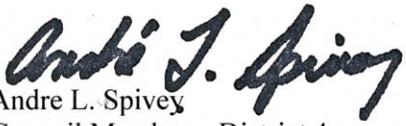
As an elected official, I am always asked about providing employment for residents in the city who are out of work. The truth of the matter is, outside of needing employees to perform government duties, we do not create jobs but rather create an environment for those who do. This project will provide numerous employment opportunities for Detroiters, from young people being trained as apprentices fresh out of high school to skilled laborers with years of experience.

In order to help move this project forward, the Detroit City Council approved a land swap with the DIBC, which I trust will be a win-win for both parties. As a result of the land swap, the longtime abandoned Riverside Park will begin a massive renovation in the coming weeks to provide much needed recreation space for the youth of Detroit. In addition, the swap provided the DIBC with the land it needs to construct the second span. I was confident voting in the affirmative, knowing the need to improve the border crossing and the potential for enhancement of another park in the southwest portion of our city, which has been vastly underserved for years. Many negotiations, public hearings, community conversations and a collective spirit of cooperation has led us to this point.

As Detroit continues its comeback, it will need to attract new businesses, build the capacity of current businesses, retain and attract new residents and a project of this magnitude can do just that. Detroit sits on a very important and strategic border and this twin span will be an economic boost to both the United States and our friends across the Detroit Strait.

Best wishes for a successful process and I do trust the necessary permitting will be granted to the DIBC to begin construction on the twin span. I recommend them without reservation and if there are any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


André L. Spivey
Council Member – District 4