Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony. I am Roland Lewis, president of the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance, a coalition of over 350 organizations working together to transform the New York Harbor and its waterways into a world class resource for work, play, transit and education.

Our waterways are an invaluable commercial resource, but what is often overlooked is the use of our rivers and bays as unique and essential public spaces. Our recently released Action Agenda for the Waterfront called for the creation of simple and well maintained neighborhood based town docks. These docks would allow boaters to easily and safely enter the New York public waterways and arrive at great destinations throughout the City. The maintenance of these public access points is crucial to encouraging recreational use of the harbor. The removal of abandoned boats at the expense of the registered owner, not unlike a how we deal with parking offenders on
land, would be an efficient means of doing this. The Parking Violations Bureau polices our streets and keeps abandoned vehicles off of them, allows for free vehicle transit. The PVB is a necessary evil that all recognize as critical to the flow of traffic and goods on our streets. The same diligence by the City of New York must be applied on our waterways if we hope to increase traffic for waterborne recreation and commerce. Once we begin to think of our waterways as merely an extension of the public transit and recreational areas we use on land, we can begin truly becoming a waterfront city.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.