



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 8, 2020

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Waterfront Alliance Announces Former National Parks Conservation Association Executive Cortney Worrall as New President and CEO

New York, NY—Today the Waterfront Alliance, the nonprofit which has led the charge advocating for coastal resilience across New York and New Jersey for more than a decade, announced that former National Parks Conservation Association Northeast Regional Director Cortney Worrall will take over as the organization's second President and CEO.

A seasoned environmental activist and nonprofit leader, Worrall will draw upon her extensive expertise driving successful campaigns in leading the Waterfront Alliance and reaffirming its position as a key shaper of waterfront policy in the region. As CEO she will also assume a leadership role within the Waterfront Alliance-convened [Rise to Resilience](#) coalition, which unveiled a comprehensive policy platform for the region in July and secured support from elected officials including Senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Corey Booker.

"This is a critical moment for our region in the fight against climate change. Eight years after Hurricane Sandy, New York and New Jersey are still unprepared for the impacts of severe storms and flooding, posing a direct threat to more than a million people," said **Cortney Worrall, President and CEO of the Waterfront Alliance**. "Covid-19 reminds us that we are deeply susceptible to crises when unprepared, the effects of which are borne inequitably by those with the least. Climate change is an unavoidable challenge that requires us to commit to a future in which our region can withstand these events ahead of time and more equitably. It is one of the greatest challenges our region faces, and I'm proud to lead the Waterfront Alliance in shaping the collaborative, cross-sector, and community-driven processes that can produce real solutions."

Worrall will host her first major activation as head of the Waterfront Alliance this weekend, at a region-wide climate change awareness event on City of Water Day, Saturday, September 12. The day-long event will feature the launch of Art at the BlueLine, a multimedia arts exhibit along Pier 17 in the Seaport District, and a series of more than 35 local events along the future flood line in which communities will explore what the fight against climate change means for their neighborhoods.

"The destructive impact of Tropical Storm Isais is only the most recent example of what is at stake for our region if we do not immediately begin to address the challenge of climate change," said **Chris Ward, Chairman of the Board of the Waterfront Alliance**. "Now is the time to build a more humane and resilient region, in which our

communities are better prepared to withstand the effects of intense storms and sea level rise. The Waterfront Alliance is uniquely poised to work with a broad cross-section of community leaders and decision-makers to move forward with real solutions -- that will not only make critical inroads in building resilience but get the region economically back on track with job-creating investments in preparation."

Worrall will also spearhead her first Waterfront Alliance [Heroes of the Harbor](#) gala on October 5th honoring the maritime sector for its service to the region during the pandemic.

Prior to joining the Waterfront Alliance, Worrall spent six and a half years as Senior Regional Director with the National Parks Conservation Association working on policy campaigns. Adept at bringing together voices and decision makers across the ideological spectrum, her many achievements in this role include leading the successful campaign for Stonewall National Monument, designated by President Obama in 2016 and most recently helping to secure the landmark congressional passage of critical funding for national parks in the Great American Outdoors Act.

"Cortney Worrall brought together diverse and sometimes discordant voices from within and outside the LGBTQ community to lead the campaign for Stonewall National Monument. Stonewall Inn deserved long-overdue national recognition," **said Curtis Kelly, owner Stonewall Inn.** "Her campaign skills for Stonewall, conducted during the short political window before the end of the Obama Administration, will translate to leadership for climate preparedness, one of the greatest challenges of our time."

During her first stint with the Waterfront Alliance from 2009–2013, Worrall served as Chief Operating Officer and played a key role leading several of the organization's crucial initiatives, including development of community outreach and waterfront policy for the 2010 New York City Comprehensive Waterfront Plan, execution of the organization's strategy for five-borough ferry service for New York City, and launching the development of the award-winning WEDG® (Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines) for the New York-New Jersey Harbor.

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The Waterfront Alliance inspires and effects resilient, revitalized, and accessible coastlines for all communities.