



A Community Organization for LGBT Youth of Color in New York City  
www.fiercenyc.org

## Media Advisory

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### **LGBTQ Youth Fight for a S.P.O.T. on Pier 40 Community Board 2 is Asked to Re-new its Commitment to LGBTQ services**

**What:** In July of 2007, the Pier 40 Working Group of the Hudson River Park Trust passed a recommendation that called for a development process that put community needs first ahead of profit. With mega-entertainment developer, Related Company, currently out of the running for Pier 40, an updated proposal by the People's Pier developers promises a Pier 40 dedicated to schools, public/private fields, and market-rate event space. LGBTQ youth celebrated with the West Village community when Related Company was given the red-light. It was a decision that symbolized a fight for our community that is far from over. On Monday September 15, 2008 FIERCE and our allies will be attending the September Public Hearing on Pier 40 hosted by the Community Board 2 Waterfront Committee. We will deliver a message that calls for the most unthinkable--to advocate for the development of at least 1% pier in the interests of the community and to see the importance of this space as a *necessity* and not an afterthought in the process. FIERCE, in coalition with 30 prominent LGBTQ service organizations and 200 West Village residents, have called for space to house a 24 hour LGBTQ Youth Center on Pier 40. We hope that the Pier 40 Working Group and Waterfront Committee of the Community Board 2 will continue to support developing a pier for all of New York to enjoy--including homeless LGBTQ youth. LGBTQ youth plan to turn out to the meeting wearing black shirts emblazoned with messaging about the right to a development process that responds to their needs.

**Who:** LGBTQ Youth, Allied Organizations and FIERCE

**When:** Monday, September 15th  
700pm Waterfront Committee of Community Board 2 Public Hearing on Pier 40

**Where:** Community Board 2 Waterfront Committee Public Hearing | Village Community School, 272 W. 10th St., Auditorium

#### **Quotes:**

"40% of homeless youth are LGBTQ in New York City. That's 40% too much. We have the opportunity to do something about it on Pier 40 by developing 1% of the pier for community uses like a LGBTQ youth center. 1% for 40%...That's what development is supposed to be about." Jo-Jo Rivera, FIERCE member.

"LGBTQ youth are too frequently treated like they don't belong, often facing cruel rejection in their homes, their schools, their neighborhoods. I implore that their need for a safe space in the neighborhood they have made their own be respected in the plans for the development of Pier 40." Carl Siciliano, Founder/Executive Director, Ali Forney Center