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For Immediate Release

**TIMES SQUARE COMMUNITY RELEASES
“ROADMAP FOR A 21ST CENTURY TIMES SQUARE”**

Comprehensive Proposal Would Create a “Times Square Commons” with Distinct Regulatory Zones to Address Aggressive Solicitation, Predatory Behavior, and Congestion on the Broadway Plazas

New York, NY (September 17, 2015) – The Times Square Alliance, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Councilmember Dan Garodnick, Councilmember Corey Johnson, Community Board 5 and dozens of members of the Times Square community today released the “Roadmap for a 21st Century Times Square” – a comprehensive proposal to solve the challenges facing Times Square, including aggressive solicitation, predatory behavior, and congestion. Details of the plan can be found at the following link: www.abettertimesquare.org.

The roadmap has three core elements:

1. Legally redefine the Broadway Plazas as a public place called “Times Square Commons” with three distinct regulatory zones
 - “Civic Zones” for passive use, events and programming
 - “Flow Zones” for unimpeded pedestrian throughput
 - “Designated Activity Zones” for constitutionally-protected solicitation for the immediate exchange of money for goods, services or entertainment
2. Complete a Theater District congestion study to address pedestrian and vehicular issues using data-driven analysis including exploration of:
 - Improving pedestrian flow and safety for 42nd Street
 - Impact of tour bus stop locations, as well as bus clustering and dwell time
 - Impact of street closings, street fairs and events
 - Effect of traffic agents for peak times and intersections
 - Re-opening turn lanes and examining key vehicular-pedestrian pinch points
3. Sustain and support a new NYPD Times Square Unit
 - Train Times Square beat cops on the nuanced forms of intimidation by solicitors & the complex legal issues related to enforcement
 - Make all civil penalties returnable to Midtown Community Court
 - Enlist support from the District Attorney

The proposal will be presented to the Mayor’s Times Square Task Force for consideration as it works toward its October 1st deadline.

“Times Square should be a place of freedom of expression, freedom of movement and creativity, without being a free-for-all,” said **Tim Tompkins, President of the Times Square Alliance**. “The community’s proposal creates a constitutional and data-driven framework for rationally regulating one of the world’s great public spaces and we are grateful to our elected officials for coming up with this thoughtful and comprehensive set of solutions. While this proposal is unique to Times Square, it provides an important template and toolkit for addressing the issues of plazas citywide. We’re also encouraged by preliminary discussions with the administration in preparation for the task force meetings and look forward to diving into the details to develop a solution that is acceptable to all.”

"The Times Square Alliance has laid out a solid framework for regulating Times Square that has the support of a wide variety of stakeholders. I look forward to working with the full Task Force to fill out and realize that plan," said **Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer**. "With its theaters, lights, businesses, and its large pedestrian plaza, Times Square is a uniquely exciting destination for visitors to our city. I am confident we can work together to preserve what makes Times Square special while laying ground rules to help pedestrians keep moving and help everyone feel safer in one of the world's busiest public spaces."

"Times Square is screaming for a complete solution," said **Council Member Dan Garodnick**. "We need a set of rules that is carefully crafted to provide for public safety, while also respecting the First Amendment. And that is exactly what we are proposing."

"It is possible to respect first amendment rights while protecting pedestrians from scams and aggressive panhandling," said **Council Member Corey Johnson**. "This common sense proposal is the right fit for Times Square. As Times Square is one of the most visited locations in the world, it's important that we get this right. I want to thank Borough President Gale Brewer, Council Member Dan Garodnick and the Times Square Alliance for their leadership and partnership on this important issue."

Vikki Barbero, Chair, Community Board 5: “We applaud the Times Square solution brought forth by Borough President Brewer and Councilmembers Garodnick and Johnson. Times Square has turned into a place where visitors are all too often mistreated and, increasingly, that New Yorkers wish to avoid. We welcome this first step to preserve Times Square as an international symbol, while also crafting a solution that addresses the community’s concerns.”

Companies, organizations, groups, and people that have endorsed the proposal so far include:

- 1540 Broadway
- Actor’s Equity Association
- Bank of America
- Boston Properties
- Bow Tie Partners
- Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
- Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.
- Carolines on Broadway
- Clear Channel Spectacolor
- Councilmember Dan Garodnick
- Councilmember Corey Johnson
- Community Board 5
- Davis Realty
- Disney Theatrical Group
- Doubletree Suites

- Forest City Ratner
- Highgate Hotels
- Hines Interests
- Host Hotels & Resorts
- Hyatt Times Square
- Jamestown LLP
- MAC Cosmetics
- Maefield Development/FLB Ventures
- Manatt, Phelps + Phillips LLP
- Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer
- Morgan Stanley + Co.
- NASDAQ Market Site
- Neighborhood Plaza Partnership, a program of the Horticultural Society
- Newmark
- New York State Senator Brad Hoylman
- Port Authority of NY & NJ
- Project FIND
- Project for Public Spaces
- Roundabout Theatre Company
- Rudin Management Company
- Sherwood Equities
- SL Green
- The Actors Fund
- The Broadway Association
- The Broadway League
- The Durst Organization
- The Lamb's Club
- The Renaissance NY Hotel
- The Shubert Organization
- Theatre Development Fund/TKTS
- Tim O'Neal Lorah, Times Square Resident
- Times Square Advertising Coalition
- Times Square Alliance
- Transportation Alternatives
- Transportation Ventures
- Vornado Realty Trust
- Walgreens
- Witkoff Group/701 Seventh Avenue

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