

Date Submitted	City	State	Comments
7/24/2025	Burlington	MA	<p>I'm writing to support Courageous Sailing's proposal to transform Pier 5 into a dynamic hub for recreation, education, and community access - a vision that aligns perfectly with Courageous' mission. This proposed plan has many benefits including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State-of-the-Art Amenities: Year-round indoor classrooms, meeting spaces, and the much-needed addition of indoor bathrooms will drastically improve our facilities. - Enhanced Accessibility: New lockers, outdoor classrooms, and additional dock space provide greater access to our programs and waterfront activities for everyone. - Eliminate Waitlists and Expand Access: The new facilities will enable Courageous to accommodate more kids and families, eliminating current waitlists and broadening program access. <p>I hope that you will adopt Courageous Sailing's proposal for this unique space.</p>
7/24/2025	Charlestown	MA	<p>I agree Courageous Sailing is an amazing program and would love to see Pier 4 expand and improve its facilities, but I do not support either of the proposals that were presented tonight for Pier 5, or a "Pier 4-5" combination. It seems to me the sailing program will have the most benefit, without availability to the public, and everything will cost money. People think they can bring their canoe or kayak and just put it in the water at this new pier. Is that correct? The public is being severely misled.</p> <p>The cost outweighs the benefit to the public and is not what the community needs. We want a public park, mostly green space. The current proposal by Courageous shows the end of Pier 5 with a lot of concrete space. We need grass!! We also do not need pools, saunas, or 35-foot-tall event spaces. We need benches, picnic tables, play areas. The current proposal is too large and high, obstructing beautiful views of the city from the boardwalk. Below the park, below sea level, I think the science classrooms would be great, especially with large windows for viewing sea life.</p> <p>The marina proposal does not make sense at all. We have ample marinas in the Navy Yard, and it does not provide any benefit to the public.</p> <p>I urge you to please reject both of these the proposals and find a better one.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
7/24/2025	BOSTON	MA	<p>I want to voice my strong support for the Courageous Sailing proposal to redevelop Pier 5. Courageous is a beloved community organization with a proven track record of making the Boston harbor more accessible to a large and diverse community of Boston city school children and residents. The Courageous redevelopment proposal outlines a bold, exciting, and resilient vision for a public space to host community programs, science education, and recreation. This is an incredibly strong proposal from a community organization with a strong track record of proven success of public engagement in the Navy Yard.</p>
7/25/2025	Watertown	MA	<p>This is a great project for the community of Boston and the Greater Boston area. I love how thoughtful the design is, considering its context and emerging from the pier so gently and elegantly. The materials and the green roof offer great views of the building itself, while the building form lends itself so well to public engagement on the site. I can't wait to see how the public begins to discover this design and the offerings of the Courageous Sailing program, as well as opportunities for larger events, whether in the social hub or on the roof deck.</p> <p>I once sailed out of Courageous Sailing's current pavilion at a regatta for my high school sailing team. The facility was struggling to serve its students. It is so wonderful to see the progress being made, not only for this great organization, but especially the world that will be opened to the public with this project on Pier 5!</p>
7/25/2025	Cambridge	MA	<p>Thank you for this project overview.</p> <p>As a lifetime sailor, I am far more interested in seeing a project which benefits many hundreds in accessing the public waterfront, rather than one which simply caters to wealthy boat owners, many of whom are not from Boston ore the surrounding area. Courageous does wonderful work for sailors of all ages, abilities, and means, and indeed is greatly supporting the community at large, and introducing new people to the wonderful world of sailing on Boston Harbor.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
7/25/2025	Charlestown	MA	<p>As a parent of 2 boys who attend Courageous Swim Sail Science and a member of the Charlestown Neighborhood Council I am in full support of the Courageous Sailing Proposal. Their proposal serves the entire community and they are a true gift to the community.</p>

7/25/2025	Charlestown	MA	<p>Thank you for the two presentations regarding the development of Pier 5. Full disclosure, we live in Flagship Wharf with a direct view of Pier 5 and the harbor. We are supporters of Courageous Sailing and have been members and donors for many years. We were not part of any of the working groups for either project, nor were we consulted--so this is our introduction to both plans. We are not boat owners.</p> <p>Our criteria for any changes to Pier 5: 1) It must have a historical component 2) It must have open space for neighbors to enjoy 3) It must be of the scale that is in keeping with the neighborhood--not overwhelming.</p> <p>4) It must allow "the head of the harbor" to be seen without intruding on sightlines. 5) It must continue the traditional, classic, navy yard design aesthetic-- historical, traditional, classic, industrial, not too modern.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the Courageous proposal is too big, too modern, and too dense to fit into the Navy Yard. It looks like a mall, with all the multifunction of one.</p> <p>We believe Courageous can grow their business model without Pier 5, and we also see opportunity for additional community services within other communities. Jamaica Plain, East Boston, etc. The current proposal's swimming pool and size of the venues are overwhelmingly intrusive to the people who live here. is already maxed out. There are pools currently available at the YMCA, in Charlestown, and the North End--all within easy access.</p> <p>The Legasse marina plan with their publicly stated working outreach to Courageous, offers another strategy. The Legasse marina is seasonal, quiet, allows access to the waterfront, and does not obstruct any sight lines. The work they do--- that we have seen-- is functional, safe, attractive, and blends into the Navy Yard. We feel as abutters that this proposal is more in keeping with the neighborhood. It could also furnish floating classrooms for Courageous, and additional dock space.</p> <p>Our choice for Pier 5 is a park which creatively tells the Navy Yard story, and the story of the harbor and its' place in our country's history. Rather than looking at what New York or Finland have done, it's important to have synergy with Boston and our unique character. IF we were to look at a city for inspiration, it would be Charleston South Carolina. This city honors its history and attracts visitors and revenue by being authentic, charming, with a beautiful coastal setting.</p> <p>Lastly, I offer this. During the presentation we heard about some of the community support. Many of the folks support Courageous so they support this increased infrastructure. They have no downside because they are not located anywhere near Pier 5. We support Courageous, but not their proposal because of the reasons above.</p> <p>Any concept should have MINIMAL adjacent impact: height, noise, views, traffic. If these are the two choices, our vote is for the Legasse marina. However, while it may be a challenge, the Navy Yard should offer an accessible and open shoreline without encroaching on the neighbors/abutters in a negative way.</p>
7/28/2025	Cambridge	MA	<p>I would like to express my very eager support of the Courageous proposal for Pier 5! One of the first things that made me fall in love with Boston after moving here 6 years ago, and one of the reasons I decided to stay, is how the city has prioritized public spaces, including public access of the waterfront. In such a high cost of living city, it would have been easy for developers to come in and claim those spaces for the ultra wealthy, as private marinas, high end housing, or private clubs; and yet, in true Boston fashion, the city has carved out spaces that ensure access is equitable, welcoming, and engaging.</p> <p>After my initial move here, I had the chance to temporarily live in Copenhagen; this open access is one of the traits shared there, making both cities my favorite places to have ever lived. Hearing Courageous' presentation of their plan for the pier, I was immediately moved and excited by the aspects that would both carve out a space to support local youth education, as well as ensure that the public across Boston has equal claim to the proposed space.</p> <p>As a California transplant looking to make long term roots in the area, the prospect of spaces dedicated to a potential future family were a huge draw for this proposal. I grew up coastal adjacent, but not as close to the ocean as Boston. While my proximity to the ocean gave me a healthy respect for its power and depth -- my family ensured I learned to swim at a very early age -- things like sailing and marine research were not immediate resources available to me. Being so close to the ocean here, in a city where the Harbor Walk ensures waterfront access, a dedicated educational space to instill a similar, but more in depth, respect and understanding for the ocean is imperative.</p> <p>Furthermore, I think Courageous' plans for its more open public elements, like the harbor pool, 'learning lagoon,' and rooftop gathering spaces, are all incredible symbols of the open welcome this city has instigated for all people, regardless of birthplace, socioeconomic status, or identity. Putting support behind this project is a clear signal to all Boston communities that the city is hell bent on continuing that welcome status, regardless of outside economic or political pressures.</p> <p>Should the Courageous proposal be selected, it would be one more item on the list of things that make Boston special, one more point of pride for anyone who has ever called Boston home, and one more symbol for the open community that Boston has fostered.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>

7/29/2025	Charlestown	MA	<p>Hi All- As a board member, lifelong sailor supporting community sailing programs and someone who volunteered time to create the submission I am in full support of the Courageous vision to transform Pier 5.</p> <p>My wife and I have been raising our 15 year old triplet boys in Charlestown since they were born and they have spent 7 summers in Courageous' Steps to Lead program. The education as well as the leadership skills and exposure to kids of all races and socioeconomic backgrounds at Courageous have shaped who they are becoming as young men that I have been witnessing first hand have proved to be invaluable.</p> <p>As my son Theo said after the first few summers Courageous creates a home of support, learning, compassion, leadership and inclusion that allows kids to grow and become more confident about their abilities.</p> <p>For the past 37 years Courageous has brought kids from all walks of life from all over Boston teaching what my boys have learned to generations of kids and adults. However the program is restricted because of their facilities and constantly have to turn away countless numbers of kids. Pier 5 would help Courageous with their mission but also open the doors to science, teaching and climate resiliency programs that would prove to be extremely valuable to the future of Boston and create a home for all citizens. Please support the approval of the Courageous Pier 5 vision. Many thanks!</p>
7/29/2025	Boston	MA	As a Boston resident and participant in a events with Courageous Sailing I'd like to voice my support for their proposal for pier 5.
7/29/2025	Plymouth	VT	Love it, it would be such a game changer for Boston Sailing
7/29/2025	Somerville	MA	<p>Hello!</p> <p>I am writing in support of the proposal presented by Courageous Sailing. As a previous participant and employee at Courageous Sailing, I have seen first hand the tremendous impact that its programming has on the Boston community. They have a proven track record of investing deeply and thoughtfully in how to best serve our city's young people. Their proposal would not only improve the experience of the students and members at Courageous, but the greater Charlestown community. Third spaces are so critical to community and belonging and by accepting Courageous' proposal the City would address this absence within the Navy Yard, while also supporting a tent pole of the Charlestown community. Thank you for your consideration, I am available via email or phone call to discuss this matter further as needed.</p>
7/29/2025	Charlestown	MA	The Pier 5 project has the potential to enhance the quality of life of Boston residents beyond the Charlestown Navy Yard. A public asset, Pier 5 can become a recreational space used by all Bostonians: a floating pool and/ or a playground for young and older citizens. It could feature exercise equipment that blends in with the green space and sitting areas for gardens and for enjoying the amazing views. The cost of maintainance could be done by sharing the space with a partial marina expansion.This option doesn't propose building structures that may require protection from environmental changes. A commercial development will be for commerce, not for residents. Bostonians deserve the maximum return in enjoyment, increased wellbeing and pride that this project can bring. It's their harbor and their city.
7/29/2025	East Boston	MA	Courageous provides access to watersports, education opportunities, and a community devoted to care and youth development. At the moment, the upper limit of those services is the facilities available on Pier 4. With more room, services can be extended to children in and from Charlestown and surrounding areas. The plan will also remove the rather bleak-looking current pier, which is little more than concrete and timber. Replacing an eyesore with access is a proposal that should have everyone excited.
7/30/2025	Charlestown	MA	The Pier 5 redevelopment decision is a no brainer. A city thrives with public/private collaboration that supports local communities. City residents need places to go, mingle, learn and enjoy. Mayor Wu knows this, I hope to see her team follow through in making Boston a livable city for all residents not just monied elites.

7/31/2025	charlestown	MA	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing today to express my strong support for the Courageous Sailing proposal for the redevelopment of Pier 5 in the Charlestown Navy Yard. I believe this project represents a unique and valuable opportunity to create a public space that will benefit not only the Charlestown community but the entire city of Boston.</p> <p>Key Reasons for My Support:</p> <p>Expanded Youth Programming: The proposal would allow Courageous Sailing to significantly expand its youth programs, which provide free and low-cost sailing and educational opportunities to children from diverse backgrounds across Boston. This includes programs that teach crucial life skills like teamwork, problem-solving, and confidence.</p> <p>Public Access and Community Space: The plan is centered on public access.</p> <p>Coastal Resilience: The proposal integrates thoughtful, nature-based solutions to address climate change and sea-level rise. Features like floating wetlands, a living seawall, and stormwater management systems will not only protect the waterfront but also serve as an educational tool for the public.</p> <p>Education and STEM: The proposal includes a "Learning Lagoon" with tide pools and classroom spaces that would support hands-on marine science and STEM education. This would provide a valuable resource for students of all ages and create a unique partnership opportunity with local universities and research organizations.</p> <p>Community Benefits: It preserves the pier for maritime and recreational use, aligning with the historic character of the Navy Yard.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the immense public benefits of the Courageous Sailing proposal. It is a plan that is not only financially viable but also one that prioritizes community, education, and environmental stewardship for the future of Boston.</p>
8/1/2025	Quincy	MA	<p>I am a long time supporter of Courageous Sailing and lover of the harbor. We need more public spaces on the water where citizens can go to enjoy all the activity and beauty of this great harbor and city. Courageous Sailing has long proved to be a stalwart defender of Boston harbor, and in giving access to citizens who might never have the chance to experience sailing. It is a shame that other attempts to create public access has been put aside in favor of private enterprise - the Seaport District is a perfect example. This is a unique opportunity for the city to put the public first and the Courageous plan hits all the notes for a successful project.</p>
8/2/2025	beverly	MA	<p>Courageous supports the opportunities for many citizens living in our area to learn how to sail and sail various sized boats. The dedication of the many volunteers and members are the best and providing them with facilities on the water is important for sustainability and maintenance.</p> <p>I know many that love it and Courageous is a community non-profit that creates water access, leadership, and education opportunities for kids. It is known for quality sailing instruction. We should never lose this and we must allow it to grow</p>
8/2/2025	beverly	MA	<p>Courageous supports the opportunities for many citizens living in our area to learn how to sail and sail various sized boats. The dedication of the many volunteers and members are the best and providing them with facilities on the water is important for sustainability and maintenance. I know many that love it and Courageous is a community non-profit that creates water access, leadership, and education opportunities for kids. It is known for quality sailing instruction. We should never lose this and we must allow it to grow</p>
8/4/2025	Boston	MA	<p>Thought both proposals were well thought out - but not sure we have demand and need to support such a large marina in Charlestown. If there was a way to merge both, scaling down the scope, offering expanded marina, courageous sailing and community driven space, like a pool and recreation center that would attract more business to the Navy Yard that would be ideal. Is there a way to ask both to collaborate to make this space attractive to all?</p>
8/4/2025	Boston	MA	<p>Thought both proposals were well thought out - but not sure we have demand and need to support such a large marina in Charlestown. If there was a way to merge both, scaling down the scope, offering expanded marina, courageous sailing and community driven space, like a pool and recreation center that would attract more business to the Navy Yard that would be ideal. Is there a way to ask both to collaborate to make this space attractive to all?</p>

8/5/2025	Charlestown	MA	<p>Public Testimony – Boston Harbor Pier 5 Redevelopment Summary Statement I’m asking the Boston Planning Department to reject the Pier 5 proposal from Courageous Sailing — and instead support building modern facilities for them on Pier 4, where the City has already invested \$10 million to rebuild the pier robustly: it can now support a large two-story building. Pier 4 is where Courageous belongs. They have more space there than all other youth sailing groups in Boston combined. They’ve proposed development there multiple times, including in 2023. Let’s honor their mission — and support it in the right place. But Pier 5 should serve every Bostonian. Why I Resigned I joined the Courageous Piers 4 and 5 working group because I believed in the vision of a public waterfront, open to all. I imagined a swimmable harbor and a shared civic space. But as the project evolved, it became clear: this is no longer a community effort. It’s a commercial real estate deal, dressed in nonprofit clothing. I couldn’t imagine asking for donations or speaking on behalf of the community — because I no longer believed this served the public. The \$80 Million Catch-22 Courageous does wonderful work, but it’s not easily scalable. Teaching kids to sail and swim in open water is labor-intensive. And taking over Pier 5 doesn’t meaningfully expand their reach — the docking space remains limited. Yet, to qualify for massive public funding, Courageous was pushed into proving revenue. And so we get a bloated Catch-22: To fund a modest mission, they must build a giant building with a wedding hall, an immersive theater, and office space. Trojan Horse: Public Money, Private Gain This proposal is a Trojan Horse. Private interests are using a beloved nonprofit to take over public land — and use \$80 million in public funding to build private businesses. Ask yourself: would any city accept this pitch? “We want to build a 3-story, 35-foot commercial building on one of the last open piers on Boston Harbor. It will include a 400-person wedding venue, a for-profit theater, and office space. We’d like \$80 million in taxpayer funds. We won’t pay it back — even if we fail. But we’ll keep the profits.” No responsible city would accept that deal. Boston shouldn’t either. The Numbers Don’t Work That pool — mainly reserved for 1,200 sailing students — would cost the public \$80 million. That’s \$66,666 per child in year one. Even assuming a 20-year lifespan, that’s \$3,333 per year — for 1% of Boston’s kids. Meanwhile, the public gets blocked views, limited access, and privatization of a priceless public asset. A Giant Building. For What? In 2023, Courageous proposed an 11,000 sq. ft. facility on Pier 4. Now, on Pier 5, it’s 44,000 sq. ft. Why? To satisfy revenue projections tied to public funds. If their commercial ventures fail, Courageous isn’t on the hook. The public loses \$80 million — and permanent access to Pier 5. Let’s Dream Bigger — For Everyone Imagine something better: a floating harbor pool like New York’s proposed Plus Pool. Open to all 101,000 Boston kids, plus their families. Swimmable in summer, with saunas and plunge pools in winter. And no need for permanent structures at risk from rising seas. Boston now has some of the cleanest urban waters in the country — let’s put them to joyful use. Cost? Let’s assume \$30 million. That’s \$297 per child, not \$66,666. And it serves everyone. Add “Plus Buses” Water shuttles could bring families from every Boston neighborhood when the temperature tops 80 degrees. Make this an iconic, equitable civic treasure — not a black box for-profit theater and giant wedding hall. The Choice Is Clear We can build: – A private event venue for a privileged few – Or a public harbor sanctuary for everyone Let’s choose the future. Let’s keep Pier 5 100% public.</p>
8/5/2025	Charlestown	MA	<p>Piers 4 and 5 FOR LEGASSE ● Can you imagine reworking your marina expansion plan to include significant public swimming, sauna, and water access facilities? I.e. something similar (but smaller scale) to what Courageous showed in Helsinki? Or the New York Plus Pool? Not just a dock but a meaningful public asset you would own and operate? ● If so, could you commit to developing a rough visual plan before the designation, to solicit community feedback? I understand that the BPD has to evaluate only what you already proposed but if you could show ability to work with community feedback there could be a win win here. Both for Boston and Courageous. FOR COURAGEOUS Financials Your proposal has specific revenue projections which are of necessity built on specific assumptions. Please provide the detailed basis for your revenue estimates. What are the assumptions building to all of the projected revenues such as office leases, theater admissions, wedding/corporate venue rentals, swimming charges, concessions, other rentals. Below are specific assumptions to be addressed: For the immersive theater. Please provide: ● the hours of operation ● the proposed admission costs For the wedding/corporate venue: ● Provide the projected revenue assumptions: ○ Hours of operation ○ Number of events per year: day and night ○ Estimated revenue from each event Pier Reconstruction ● Courageous is currently showing no costs for the pier reconstruction in their budget yet in 2023 they told the city they had gotten an estimate that the Pier 5 reconstruction cost will be \$50M out of a total \$100M construction. Please show a fully complete budget for all construction costs for the project, including each major line item and particularly pier removal and reconstruction. Operations ● For the restaurant: ○ Vendor truck access plan ○ Trash removal plan ○ Projected daily visitors ○ Parking plan for staff and daily visitors ● Wedding/Corporate venue: ○ Provide the traffic management plan ○ Vendor truck access plan ○ Trash removal plan ○ Parking plan for staff and up to 400 guests per night ● Immersive theater ○ Provide the traffic management plan ○ Vendor truck access plan ○ Trash removal plan ○ Parking plan for staff and visitors ○ a clear and detailed schedule of programming ○ what are the themes ○ how often will the shows change ○ evidence of a similar science-focussed immersive theater operating year after year and providing public benefit ○ the credentials of the individuals responsible for the theater programming ● Show “Science Pier” partners thoughts and expectations for providing public benefits. Are they doing clear public education programs? Are they developing content for the immersive theater? Marketing plan (This is relevant because otherwise public debt funds are at risk of being defaulted.) ● Provide a detailed plan for marketing and consistently filling the immersive theater to meet revenue projections ● Provide a detailed plan for marketing and consistently filling the Pier 5 wedding venue to meet revenue projections ● Provide a detailed plan for marketing and consistently filling the Pier 4 wedding venue to meet revenue projections Please provide a staffing plan for all the revenue generation outside of Courageous programs For the Courageous program: ● Provide size/breakdown of indoor, conditioned sq. ft. space that will be directly used on a daily basis by the Courageous staff and kids for classroom instruction and offices across the future Piers 4 and 5. ● Provide current number of kids served with sailing instruction and proposed number of kids learning to sail with Piers 4 and 5 combined. (not swimming, events or education) ● Similarly, provide the current number of Courageous youth instruction boats (not adult and corporate rentals) and future proposed number of Courageous youth instruction boats to be docked ● Show a current staffing plan and the proposed Courageous staffing plan post construction</p>
8/5/2025	charlestown	MA	Courageous has my vote! What an absolute g for Boston amphibious park would be - connected to their their thriving center on Pier 4
8/5/2025	Medford	MA	I wanted to write in support of Courageous Sailing's proposal for Pier 5 - a multi-purpose community education and recreational space. Courageous is also operating in the vicinity and has spent the last few decades demonstrating a solid non-profit model and a commitment to the Charlestown community and Boston youth. Their vision for Pier 5 fulfills a growing need in Boston for third spaces and no-cost spaces that the entire community can enjoy - a much needed contrast from yet another property company who will simply build more retail, restaurants, or expensive waterfront housing. Please choose Courageous's proposal and keep the Boston waterfront accessible for all. Thank you!

8/5/2025	Boston	MA	Deer, city planners, I am so excited about the opportunity to share with you my enthusiasm for the Courageous sailing proposal for this project. Courageous sailing has been a wonderful organization that has supported the development of my two sons who are aged 16 and 14. As a sailor who learned to sail in college, I am so appreciative of all of the efforts that Courageous sailing has offered to my children to learn to sail. This organization provides our city youth the opportunity to learn a sail that few others will provide. The opportunity to be in our majestic harbor and deliver opportunities for the children of the city is a unique opportunity to lift up this program and provide greater resources for children. I hope you will value the efforts of this organization over others that may not serve our city youth. Thank you for your consideration.
8/5/2025	Charlestown	MA	I am in support of Courageous Sailing's proposal for Pier 5. I have lived in Charlestown for 13 years and my children have benefited from the great programming by C. Sailing. I think their proposal would be a huge benefit, not only to Charlestown, but all of Boston.
8/5/2025	Boston	MA	This is great opportunity to develop for Boston Navy Yard. I saw similar community development when I visited Copenhagen and Boston needs this type of multi functional community.
8/6/2025	Boston	MA	I am writing this note in support of the Courageous Sailing Pier 5 proposal. I first met the Courageous staff while working for the Boston Public Schools in 2011 as we were seeking summer school partners for a study on summer learning loss. Courageous became a critical partner in becoming a Summer Learning Project site and providing a safe and engaging environment for students from across the city. I have been fortunate to have raised my sons in Charlestown, and they have had the opportunity to be Courageous kids from an early age - being campers and sailors, completing the steps - to then work for Courageous as instructors in training, lead instructors, and now senior staff members. The impact Courageous has had on our family is indescribable and has provided fond memories. The Courageous culture has helped develop my two sons (now young men) into caring and thoughtful members of their community and emerging leaders. I cannot thank Courageous enough for helping me raise them! With this new facility, many more children in Boston could have the opportunity to experience Courageous, as my family has been fortunate enough to have. As a Charlestown resident, Pier 5 has been lying dormant for far too long and presents a wonderful opportunity to provide public space, community space, and exploration space to learn about Boston Harbor and the unique urban ecosystem we have. I do hope the City sees this opportunity to leverage the community connections that Courageous brings, its expertise in developing youth, and providing a safe space for everyone to experience Boston Harbor.
8/6/2025	EAST BOSTON	MA	I am in support
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8/6/2025	Boston	MA	I support the "Science Pier" proposal for pier 4 & 5: https://vimeo.com/1104190102?fl=pl&fe=ti&pgroup=plc This proposal represents an investment to continue Boston's legacy as "City on a Hill", an international beacon of Science & innovation. The first step to fostering a child's passion for science/learning is through providing opportunities to experience natural wonder. This unique indoor/outdoor space will make New England coastal waters accessible to residents that would otherwise rarely have the opportunity to experience them while showcasing Boston's natural beauty and commitment to equity & education.
8/6/2025	Charlestown	MA	I wanted to express my deep and unequivocal support for Courageous' response to the RFP for redevelopment of Pier 5 in Charlestown ("2025.02.24_Pier 5 RFP_Courageous Sailing Center for Youth, Inc._PUBLIC.pdf"). After attending college in the area in the 90s, my wife & I settled into our professional lives in downtown Boston, and raised two boys in Charlestown over the last 19 years. We feel so lucky to have benefited (and given back) to a local public school (The Warren Prescott), local youth sports programs, Boys & Girls Club, Charlestown Mother's Association, and Courageous Sailing... to name a few. I was so impressed by Courageous' involvement in the community, and the opportunities it provides to youth and adults. We were extremely lucky to have both our boys participate in a Charlestown after-school sailing program coordinated through BPS back in 2014, and then both got lottery spots in the Courageous Summer Sailing programs, with one of our boys being an Instructor-in-Training with them for a recent summer. While our boys were lucky to quickly come off the Courageous waitlist, I know several families that weren't so lucky and whose kids missed out on an amazing formative experience. All of the background above is just to paint the picture that my family and I have been part of the Charlestown community for almost 20 years, have had fairly deep insights into the competency of the Courageous program administrators and the enrichment they provide to those in Charlestown and beyond. I love their mission, and fully support them as a steward in turning a dilapidated Pier 5 into what I am confident would be an incredible addition to Charlestown and the envy of other Boston neighborhoods, and other cities around the country and world! And their ability to expand their programming from 1,000 kids to 10,000 kids per summer would be invaluable to families in Charlestown and surrounding neighborhoods. As an avid runner and walker, one of the things I value the most about Boston is the city's relationship to the harbor and the Harborwalk. I strongly support continuing to make the waterfront accessible and valuable to the public. The Courageous proposal for pier 5 offers a mix of education and event space, accessible outdoor space, and the proposed Harbor Pool would be a truly remarkable public amenity for all Bostonians! While there is plenty of construction happening throughout the city to bring more housing, commercial, retail, lab space, and other for-profit development projects onto the market, I would MUCH rather see Pier 5 developed into more of a community space as proposed by Courageous. For over 18 years, I have run and walked the Charlestown section of the Harborwalk, and each time I pass the chain-link fence at Pier 5, I see it as a dead end — a blockage in what should be a continuous, public waterfront. Courageous' proposal doesn't just replace a deteriorating structure; it restores a critical link in the Harborwalk, transforming a barrier into a vibrant public destination. Courageous' response to the RFP has opened my eyes to what it could become. I sincerely hope Courageous' response is selected to move forward, and I will eagerly join the rest of the community in celebrating the groundbreaking of Courageous' vision, and will celebrate each day that the project moves closer to completion! Sincerely

8/6/2025	Boston	MA	Strong Support for the Courageous Sailing Proposal for Pier 5 Dear BPDA Review Committee, I'm writing as a Charlestown parent and community member to express my enthusiastic support for the Courageous Sailing proposal for Pier 5. My children are fortunate to participate in Courageous Sailing's youth programs, and the experience has been nothing short of transformative. They're learning not just how to sail, but how to collaborate, and engage with the natural world—right here in Boston Harbor. These opportunities should not be limited to a few neighborhoods or families. The Courageous proposal would expand access for thousands more children from across the city, ensuring that every child, regardless of background, has the chance to connect with the water, gain life skills, and experience the joy of learning outdoors. Beyond benefiting children, this project offers significant value to the Charlestown neighborhood. It will bring more foot traffic to our local businesses, create jobs, and further activate our beautiful waterfront in a way that is inclusive and environmentally responsible. Boston has a chance to join cities like New York and Chicago in showcasing a vibrant, world-class waterfront destination—one that prioritizes education and public access. I'm also excited about the project's emphasis on environmental education. With more young people gaining access to marine science programming and hands-on learning about our harbor ecosystem, we're not just investing in infrastructure—we're investing in the next generation of climate stewards. This is a amazing opportunity to transform Pier 5 into a community asset. I urge you to support the Courageous Sailing proposal and help bring this inspiring vision to life. Sincerely
8/6/2025	Westford	MA	Hello, I fully support the proposal for Pier 5 from Courageous Sailing. Even though we live way up in Westford we make day trips down to sail at least once a month. Our kids attend summer camp at Courageous. The bold, ambitious proposal would create even more incentives to bring in visitors and boost the local economy. Courageous Sailing is a Boston gem and I hope their project gets picked! Best
8/6/2025	Boston	MA	6 August Hello, I am a long-standing member of Courageous Sailing Center and a resident of downtown Boston and I am writing in enthusiastic support of their proposal to re-develop Pier 5. I am also a scientist and physician and I work in the life sciences industry in Cambridge. I think that their proposal for the reclamation and repurposing of unused space to provide educational and recreational space will have a resoundingly positive effect on the lives and well-being of the citizens of Boston and its many visitors.
8/6/2025	Charlestown	MA	To whom it may concern, Hereby I am sending my comments to the presentations of the Charlestown Pier 5 proposals, presented on July 24, 2025 to the neighborhood residents: 1. Extension of the Navy Yard marina and removal of the dilapidating Pier 5 The proposal of adding 45 more slips while removing the unsafe and esthetically horribly looking pier is a well thought through plan, it builds on the strength of the existing marina and financially it seems to be well funded. As a current Freedom Boat Club member, I maximally value the benefits that the current marina provides. It is easy to access, clean, gives very little noise even in the hours of highest traffic of the boats. I welcome and support the further extension of the marina in the Navy Yard. 2. Courageous Sailing new event venue and public space While the proposal builds on the existing mission and programs of Courageous Sailing that we all love, it appears - to be rather inspirational than realistic, - lacking the characteristic of a well thought through plan, and - greatly underestimates the complexity of such project, including its funding needs, construction needs and timelines it takes to create such a center. In addition, it does not consider potential very significant loss of value of the Navy yard properties, due to - its long construction time and high noise level it brings to the neighborhood during this time, - the potential structural damage of the waterfront properties (e.g. Flagship Wharf and Parris Landing), due to drilling, heavy machinery and traffic - the subsequent 4 story high building that takes away the view of many units around the area, - the significantly increased traffic post-construction - the expected constant noise level with the ongoing activities, specifically with the planned revenue generating evening activities in the center (e.g. weddings, concerts etc.). Finally, I would like to point out, that the current location of Courageous Sailing was recently renovated, the pillars strengthened, that gives an opportunity to further expand the structure and activities by Courageous. However, the organization is not even able to keep the current place in order, clean and maintained. There are broken glasses in the current building, the tent at the end of the pier smells urine and it is trashed most of the time. I am sure the city does not want to see and experience this on steroid, on 2 piers then, in the highly historic, touristic, cultural and therefore famous Navy Yard. Thank you for considering my comments. Best regards
8/6/2025	Huntington	VT	I was lucky enough to spend my childhood at Courageous Sailing Center on Pier 4. I truly cannot imagine an organization or cause more deserving of additional space to grow their phenomenal youth programming than Courageous. Courageous has impacted every part of my life, from becoming an educator to getting my captains' license, to meeting some of my best friends and building my confidence. I am hopeful that Courageous Sailing's proposal for expanding their programs onto Pier 5 as well will help even more children in Boston have access to sailing and all of the life changing people and lessons the sport brings!
8/7/2025	Charlestown	MA	The main beneficiary of this proposal is Courageous Sailing, not the entire Charlestown community or visitors coming to the Navy Yard. The event center is monetizing this pier which should be an open park for all with no large structures blocking the view to the city. Why can't it be molded after Piers Park in East Boston? That is truly what open space for all to use should be.
8/7/2025	Charlestown	MA	Hi there! I have just reviewed both proposals for Pier 5 and am in strong support of the proposal by Courageous Sailing Center. I grew up in Boston and live here now, but have also lived and worked on waterfronts in Maine, Vermont, Maryland and in the Caribbean. I'm a boat captain, and have a marine repair business, so although the proposal by Charlestown Marina may benefit me personally, the broad benefits to the community and the future of the harbor/waterfront/city that are possible with what Courageous is proposing FAR outweigh any benefits that an extended marina could offer. In all the places I've lived/worked I have witnessed both the enormous benefit of having intentional public waterfront access and science outreach programs in some places as well as the unfortunate lack thereof in other places. So I'm writing in strong support of the Pier 5 proposal by Courageous Sailing Center. Thank you!

8/7/2025	Charlestown	MA	<p>Herewith I am sending my comments to the proposal for Charlestown Pier 5. First and foremost I am very concerned with both proposals as they include the removal of the current Pier. Flagship Wharf has a 5-story deep parking garage adjacent to that Pier and a 3-year pillar removal project could lead a catastrophic event. As to the proposals, I favor the extension of the marina. The Agassi's have proven that they can manage this type of operation very well and they have the funding. They have invested in improving the boardwalk and their operation does not cause issues to the neighboring buildings. I welcome an expansion of boat slips. However it would be nice if they can keep a small part of the Pier open for the public as a statement to the history. As for Courageous, I think they can meet their objectives in serving more children by improving and expanding and renovating their clubhouse and turning that event tent into a more permanent fixture on the rehabilitated Pier 4. That would fit their mission. An all year-round wedding event and product launch theater on Pier 5 is simply not possible. Just walk around the Navy Yard on Monday night when the Anchor has their Salsa Dance event. Cars are cruising around, desperately looking for parking spots. 1st avenue as well as 8th street are blocked. Parking is very limited even if you include the 80-100 transient parkers that Flagship Garage can host. Keep in mind that sound carries easily over water, so the noise disturbance from wedding guests and party-goers will lead to issues for all neighbors. Thank you and best regards</p>
8/8/2025	Boston	MA	<p>Hi! I'm a long time North End resident and the beneficiary of Courageous Sailing's services for many years. They're a wonderful organization and I trust their sincerity, their intentions, and their competence to execute their vision for Pier 5. Please do give their proposal deep consideration!</p>
8/8/2025	Charlestown	MA	<p>Hello! As I mentioned in the Zoom meeting I attended about this a couple of weeks ago, I've been a Navy Yard resident for 13+ years along with my husband, our two boys and dog. We are 100 percent in favor of Courageous Sailing's outstanding and well researched plan for the development of Pier 5, which we know will add a much needed vibrancy to the Navy Yard neighborhood. You have our full support. Please let us know how we can help in any way. Thank you.</p>
8/8/2025	boston	MA	<p>I live on 8th st, and I would love to see the courageous plan developed. It looks like an overwhelmingly positive addition that would make the waterfront more attractive to all. The marina expansion would be a shame. The existing marina that they have is undersold with many open slips.</p>
8/8/2025	Jamaica Plain	MA	<p>I write to express my strong support for Courageous Sailing's proposal for the future of Pier 5. With a vested interest in the area and a demonstrated history of providing a high value community service that benefits both local residents and visitors from around greater Boston, there is no more qualified entity nor complete plan that will capitalize on this unique opportunity in the way that Courageous's plan does. I am particularly excited by the plans to expand the existing sailing program while also providing the opportunity for saltwater swimming in Boston harbor, a huge unrealized opportunity for our city. I am extremely excited about the future of pier 5 and I urge the BPDA to expeditiously approved this proposal. Thank you!</p>
8/10/2025	Charlestown	MA	<p>I strongly object to the Pier 5 proposal submitted by Courageous. It is a disingenuous attempt to create a monstrous, commercial structure totally inappropriate for the "Head of Boston Harbor" historic environment location. Being a massive commercial operation expanding to service 10,000 students, hosting various event venues and a 30,000 SF building & pool will require vendors to service these facilities and ample parking to provide access. This is a residential neighborhood being accessed by 8th street's circle which is clearly inadequate. Trucks now create excessive noise and exhaust on this street disrupting the quiet enjoyment of the residents at all hours. Your priority was to minimize the environmental impact of any development on this pier. The Courageous proposal is a direct violation of this goal. Surely you can do better here. The marina is a proven well run established water dependent, non intrusive enterprise. it will not compromise the area's resources or push the limits of servicing the facilities. Please rethink this for the sake of our precious harbor and the future preservation of our historic waterfront. I used to go down to the Pier and have coffee with Harry McDonough when it was just him trying to make Courageous work. I bet he would be very disheartened by this proposal. Flagship Wharf resident</p>
8/15/2025	Natick	MA	<p>Dear Mr. Merker, I am writing to support the Courageous Sailing Center proposal for development on Piers 4 and 5. I believe that the plan that Courageous has proposed would be a world-class model for waterfront sustainability, and have tremendous benefits to Boston and our community. Courageous has truly been a leader in developing inclusive programs for all ages, and the proposed facility would enable them to enrich the experiences of these diverse groups even more. I have seen first hand as a high school sailing coach, guide for visually-impaired sailors and partner with the Special Olympics of Massachusetts what an incredible impact the opportunity to sail at Courageous can have. For a visually impaired or intellectually challenged sailor, the opportunity to take the helm of a sailboat on Boston Harbor is truly life-changing. As one 16 year old blind boy said to me during his first sail, "This is the only time I'll ever get to drive!" Courageous makes experiences like that happen. Imagine if that same teenager could swim in the Harbor Pool and explore the ecosystems in the Learning Lagoon during his visit. With the Courageous Pier 4 and 5 proposal, the City of Boston has a chance to add a best-in-class waterfront facility to the rapidly developing harbor community. It would be a model for STEM and sustainability, not only for Boston, but for the world. While most harbors are dominated by boat slips and commercial uses, the Courageous proposal would create a cultural and education center for everyone. The facility is sure to have a significant positive impact on development and attract all sorts of new economic activity. I urge the City of Boston to accept the Courageous proposal and take advantage of this amazing opportunity. An impressive range of organizations have already voiced their support for the proposal and with the City of Boston's commitment, I believe that financial support for the project will grow quickly. Don't let the City miss this wonderful opportunity! Sincerely</p>

8/16/2025	Charlestown	MA	<p>August 16, 2025 To Whom it may Concern, We are writing to you regarding the recent Pier 5 RFP presentations. We do not support the proposal from Charlestown Marina as we do not see any public benefit. It would only benefit boaters. We are thrilled with Courageous Sailing's novel design for the pier. We are strong supporters of Courageous Sailing and bristle when we hear people say that their proposal has no public benefit. Courageous itself is a huge public benefit for the city of Boston. That said, we do have concerns. Their proposal states that many of the new Pier 5 amenities will be open to the public. While we believe that Courageous needs new facilities, we want to be certain that the general public will have access to the facilities regularly. I love the idea of swimming in the harbor pool, but if Courageous kids are using it the majority of the time and I am unable to, it will be a huge disappointment. We would like to see more details on Courageous vs public time allotments. Will the pier be open to the public all of the time? Another concern is financial. This is a huge undertaking. Although it is defined as a public private partnership, we do not see much financial partnership from the city. We do not want to see the Courageous program damaged. Nor do we want to see the organization get into a trap having to make decisions based on their need to "pay the mortgage". We have spent time visiting NYC parks: Little Island and The High Line. They are both wonderful, but we are aware that they have received huge philanthropic gifts. We have major worries if Courageous is not able to secure more public funding or major philanthropic gifts. In the past, in the interest of not disrupting the neighborhood, Courageous has been limited to a certain number of events each season. Will this still be the case? In the same vein, We have read that Courageous has made some preliminary plans for transportation. As we listen to neighborhood concerns, many of them are related to increased traffic and delivery vehicles entering the streets near the piers. We think that this needs to be extremely well thought out. Only a detailed plan will satisfy these concerns. Is there any option for water transportation for deliveries as well as passengers? As residents of the Charlestown Navy Yard, we hope that concerns can be allayed and that this project can be brought to fruition. If properly done, it will be a great addition to our neighborhood and the city of Boston. Best Regards</p>
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