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## City and State Agree to Make Harlem Piers a Waterfront Park

By TERRY PRISTIN

City and state officials said yesterday that they had agreed on a plan to transform a desolate strip of waterfront land in Harlem into a recreational area. It would include fishing and boating piers, an esplanade and a small privately financed building with a restaurant, shops and a visitors' or education center.

The waterfront park would be developed on city-owned land that stretches from St. Clair Place to West 133rd Street, and from the Hudson River to Marginal Way. The four-block stretch of asphalt is known as the Harlem Piers, though the piers were torn down years ago.

City officials said the park could be built for \$12 million and would be part of a plan for better public transportation and improved traffic flow and commercial development along 12th Avenue and Broadway.

At a waterfront news conference, Gov. George E. Pataki and Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg said the city and the state would commit \$6 million to the project. The rest is expected to come from the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, an economic development program.

Mr. Bloomberg said he expected construction to begin in a year.

The announcement yesterday appeared to doom a proposal by the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce to moor a riverboat at the piers. The boat would have been used for a restaurant and banquet hall.

Community leaders said that they were pleased that the Harlem Piers plan was moving forward. But they objected to a building on the waterfront, saying the two-acre strip is too small for both recreational and commercial uses. Peggy M. Shepard, the executive director of West Harlem Environmental Action, a group that has worked on ideas for the waterfront, said she would try to persuade the city to buy property south of the piers for a commercial building.