



THE CITY OF NEW YORK **COMMUNITY BOARDS 2, 6 & 8**

Community Board 2

Shirley McRae, Chairman
Robert Perris, District Manager

Community Board 6

Jerry Armer, Chairperson
Craig Hammerman, District Manager

Community Board 8

Robert Matthews, Chairman
Doris Alexander, District Manager

December 8, 2004

Charles A. Gargano
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Empire State Development Corporation
633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Chairman Gargano:

I am writing on behalf of Brooklyn Community Boards 2, 6 & 8 to thank you for your General Counsel Anita W. Laremont's November 22, 2004 response to our previous correspondence. Ms. Laremont's outline of the generic procedures your agency typically follows was most helpful and added tremendous value to our November 29, 2004 public meeting on the Atlantic Yards Development proposal. It's a shame that the other government agencies we contacted were nowhere near as responsive the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC).

This proposal has already received a great deal of media attention. Rather than rely on second-hand reports, we wanted to be sure that we communicated certain important points directly to you. First, you should be aware that Brooklyn Community Boards 2, 6 & 8 have not taken any position with regard to this proposal. The only position related to this proposal which we all share at this time is on the process itself. It is our recommendation that this project should be subject to the City's uniform land use review procedures (ULURP). Enclosed please find copies of the prior resolutions adopted by all 3 affected Community Boards at their respective September general Board meetings.

Second, you should be aware that our Chairpersons have all announced that we will not be taking a position on this proposal at this time, certainly not before we understand exactly what type of review process the project would be subjected to and what the official proposal entails. We will neither act prematurely nor do anything that might injure our ability to participate fully, especially if some aspect of this project is subject to ULURP. We would not want to risk disempowering our communities from having as loud a voice as possible in the process down the line.

Third, standard criteria for determining significant impacts suggest that an environmental impact statement (EIS) will need to be prepared irrespective of the review process. As such, we have

begun a process of engaging the community on what questions, concerns and issues should be studied in an EIS. It is our intention to submit comments during the scoping process for the EIS, and subsequently participate in the entire review process. At this stage we are trying to educate ourselves, and our communities-at-large, in preparation. To that end we appreciate your assurance that all documents and notices will be shared with our offices. The fact that we are proactively beginning these discussions now should not be misconstrued as any attempt on our part to unintentionally short-circuit any future public process, nor should any of our actions preempt any public hearings or other opportunities for the public to participate directly in the review process for this proposal. For the record, we support the fullest amount of public participation in reviewing this proposal, as is consistent with our core mission and purpose.

Lastly, we gladly accept your agency's offer to attend a future meeting to further discuss the project in the event that an agreement is reached between ESDC and the developer. We appreciate the developer's ongoing cooperation and willingness to meet with us, but having your agency at a future meeting will ensure that questions of process will ultimately be addressed with authority. Please have your representative contact us at the earliest possible opportunity so that we can make the necessary arrangements for such a meeting.

Thank you for your attention and ongoing cooperation.

Sincerely,

Craig R. Hammerman
District Manager

cc: Hon. George E. Pataki
Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg
Hon. Marty Markowitz
Hon. Letitia James
Hon. David Yassky
Hon. Velmanette Montgomery
Hon. Carl Andrews
Hon. Joan Millman
Hon. Major Owens
Peter S. Kalikow, Chairman, MTA
Comm. Amanda Burden, DCP
Anita W. Laremont, General Counsel, ESDC
William Wheeler, Director of Special Projects, MTA
Regina Myer, Director, DCP/Brooklyn Office
Bruce Ratner, CEO, Forest City Ratner Company