

September 29, 2006

Mr. Charles A. Gargano
Chairman/CEO
Empire State Development Corporation
633 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Gargano:

Attached please find documents gathered and generated by Brooklyn's Community Board 8 that responds to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared by AKRF, Inc. on behalf of Forest City Ratner Enterprises (FCRE) in compliance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

It is my understanding that as a member of the Community Advisory Board, we were expected to review and comment on the DEIS and the General Project Plan (GPP). However, given that your agency notified my board of these proceedings in late July when our Board is not in session, it has been impossible to thoroughly complete this task.

Further, as we have noted in the past, Community Boards do not have technical support to adequately review materials that are normally examined by attorneys and engineers. We are at a disadvantage. We hope your agency will seek to address this inequity in the future.

On August 3, 2006 Community Board #8 held a public hearing at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation to get input from the community on the DEIS (minutes attached) in order to satisfy the request from your agency. I appointed William R. Batson and Meredith Staton to chair a sub-committee to prepare this submission: In addition, our members participated in a public hearing on August 23, 2006 at New York City Technical College and also presented testimony at two community forums held on September 12th & 18th on the DEIS and GPP. Enclosed are comments from the Executive Committee and community residents.

In the future, I hope that you would allow our community ample time to address such urgent matters.

Very truly yours,

Robert Matthews
Chairperson

cc: Honorable George. E. Pataki
Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg
Honorable Marty Markowitz
Honorable Christine Quinn
Honorable Letitia James
Honorable David Yassky
Honorable Velmanette Montgomery
Honorable Carl Andrews
Honorable Roger Green
Honorable Karim Camara
Honorable Major Owens
Peter S. Kalikow, Chairman, MTA
Comm. Amanda Burden, DCP
William Wheeler, Director of Special Projects, MTA
Regina Myer, Director DCP/Brooklyn Office
Bruce Ratner, CEO-Forest City Ratner Companies