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THE COUNCIL  
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VETERANS

December 19, 2005

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly  
One Police Plaza  
New York, NY 10038

Dear Commissioner Kelly,

As you most likely know, a large development has been proposed for Central Brooklyn at the Atlantic Yards site. The Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) held a Scoping Hearing on October 18, 2005 in regards to this project, entitled Proposed Scope of Analysis for the Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Atlantic Yards Arena and Redevelopment Project. At this hearing, several witnesses criticized the ESDC's scoping document for its lack of attention to public safety in general, and specifically its failure to recognize the new safety threats that must be considered post-September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. We are therefore requesting that the NYPD complete a full Security & Preparedness Study in regards to this site.

This recognition of a changed world was implicit in the Police Department's 2004 undertaking a security study of the Ground Zero Project that resulted in changes within the site and to the Freedom Tower itself. It is therefore no surprise that at the above hearing it was reasonably suggested that a similar study be performed for the Atlantic Yards Arena Project. Borough President Marty Markowitz, a project supporter, has already agreed that a study is necessary. Like the Ground Zero Project, the Atlantic Yards Project is, in its sheer size, complexity, impact and risk for our Borough, very much in need of such a study before decisions are finalized.

It is not only the lives and property of all those who will be living, working, and visiting the complex and its environs, it is also the lives and safety of all police, fire fighters and other first responders that are at stake. It is clearly in the public interest to determine future risks, man-made and natural, at the start of this endeavor rather than one day reading about the creation of a commission to determine what went wrong and why.

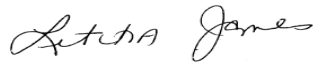
Those who testified at the hearing also expressed concern about non-disaster related issues. In November, the NYPD held hearings about the de-mapping of streets at another

Forest City Ratner development in Brooklyn, MetroTech. As the specific criteria for such closing are not publicly revealed (for security reasons,) a Police Department study at this time can play a critical role in the EIS process. For example, it would help clarify under what conditions street de-mapping or street closings can be expected for Flatbush, Atlantic or 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues and the remaining parts of Pacific Street, e. g.: an elevated Department of Homeland Security Terror Alert, a NBA post season event, a sensitive tenant such as the United Nations leasing office space, etc.

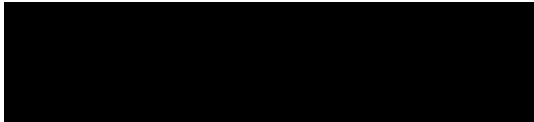
This is just one of many examples raised at the meeting regarding why it is clear that an NYPD Security & Preparedness Study needs to be preformed in a timely fashion. What Deputy Commissioner for Counter-terrorism, Michael Sheehan wrote in a memo over a year ago still applies: “In the current environment of global terrorism, the mission [of the NYPD] entails much more than simply responding to events after they have occurred. ... The Freedom Tower represents a favorable scenario in which the vulnerabilities can be addressed in the design and construction phases, rather than making modifications after the fact. ...”

Replace “the Freedom Tower” with the “Atlantic Yards Arena and Redevelopment Project” and every word written then applies equally well today. Much is at stake. In light of events in New York, Madrid, and London, we ask for your speedy authorization of a full scale Security and Preparedness Study of the Atlantic Yards Arena plan.

Thank you sincerely,



Council Member Letitia James



Congressman Major Owens



State Senator Velmanette Montgomery

Assembly Member Jim Brennan



Assembly Member Joan Millman