HISTORIC
Fort Greene Association, Inc.

Permanent Committees:
Historic Preservation
Community Relations
Quality of Life & Parks

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********PRESS RELEASE - FCRC WITHDRAWS FROM COMMUNITY FORUM********

On Thursday February 10th, 2005, Forest City Ratner Companies [FCRC] withdrew its participation in a community forum organized by the Fort Greene Association [FGA] on February 28th, 2005. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss issues, both pro and con, concerning the proposed development of the Brooklyn Atlantic Yards and to provide information to the Fort Greene community, which will be dramatically affected by the consequences of the project. FCRC's participation had been confirmed by its spokesperson, Randall Toure and additionally through the office of the Brooklyn Borough President, Marty Markowitz.

Despite the FCRC withdrawal, the FGA will proceed with this important forum. The panel discussion is to be moderated by Susan S. Fainstein, Professor and Acting Program Director of the program in Urban Planning, Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. Speakers are to include Ludlow Beckett, President Fulton Area Business Association [FAB]; Simon Bertrang, Urban Planner; Marshall Brown, Coordinator of the UNITY Plan; Deborah Howard, Executive Director, Pratt Area Community Council; Letitia James, Councilperson 35th District; Gustav Peebles, Co-author Kim/Peebles Report; Irene Van Slyke, Representing Senator Velmanette Montgomery. Repeated invitations to other organizations including Mr. James E. Caldwell of BUILD and Ms. Bertha Lewis, Executive Director of ACORN were made by letter and telephone but no reply was received.

FCRC executive vice president Bruce Bender was quoted in the New York Times on Friday February 11th, 2005 as saying "We've [FCRC has] gone above and beyond to meet with the community. We've met with all the community boards. We've never turned down anyone. We have been very open. To say we haven't is wrong, deceitful and outrageous". This assertion is contradicted by FCRC's withdrawal from participation in the Fort Greene forum, and the discrepancy between word and deed creates doubt as to whether FCRC will honor other agreements made either covertly or overtly with the Brooklyn Community.

The Fort Greene Association regrets the sudden withdrawal of FCRC and yet holds the door open for Forest City Ratner to attend and actively participate in this event.

FGA BROOKLYN ATLANTIC YARDS
INFORMATIONAL FORUM
February 28th, 2005 7:30PM
LafayetteAvenue Presbyterian Church
(at South Oxford Street & LafayetteAvenue in Fort Greene)

For further information please contact the Fort Greene Association