TESTIMONY OF ANDREW S. HOLLWECK, VICE PRESIDENT, NEW YORK BUILDING CONGRESS AT A HEARING OF THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL REGARDING GREENPOINT LANDING DECEMBER 5, 2013

As a membership coalition serving the design, construction and real estate industry, the New York Building Congress is pleased to support the land use applications enabling Greenpoint Landing's ambitious proposal to proceed.

The City Council's approval of this project is an opportunity to encourage the continued resurgence of the building industry and the broader New York City economy.

The Building Congress recently reported that the residential construction market, which came to a near standstill with the recession, was steadily improving and was forecast to return to pre-recession levels in the coming years. At the bottom of the market just a few years ago, thousands of construction jobs disappeared, and are only slowly returning. Projects lay unfinished throughout the City, representing billions of dollars of dormant economic activity.

The rebound has benefitted not just the building industry, but has been an essential component of the City's overall economic recovery. Greenpoint Landing is an integral part of this story of recovery. But that's not all: it will also create hundreds of units of affordable housing in addition to a new elementary school, several acres of parkland and other public open spaces.

There is more important context to this project: the Building Congress has mounted an extensive Infrastructure Campaign that urges continued investment in the City's core systems to allow the City to thrive in the coming century. For example, the City's population grew by nearly ONE MILLION people in the last twenty years and could grow by ONE MILLION more in the next thirty years. Even before this population explosion, the City has been in an official housing emergency for a century. As a City, we must find areas capable of accommodating these millions.

Greenpoint Landing takes advantage of the City's visionary 2005 rezoning and will add vital housing stock at a moment it is sorely needed.

Increasing density in neighborhoods with good transportation access, open space, developable land, and opportunities for school construction and the creation of amenities to meet a growing population are limited. While we must proceed rationally and follow through on the creation of those amenities to serve a diverse population, the City <u>must</u> take advantage of key locations in the City capable of accommodating the phenomenal growth and success the City has seen.

Much of the project does not require further public review. The disposition of City-owned properties and the associated modifications to the Zoning Resolution being discussed today is for fulfillment of the project's most important goals: affordable housing creation, a new public school and the creation of public open space. The core infrastructure which is so urgently needed for the City to retain its position as a global leader.

We urge the Council to approve this project so that these important goals can be realized. Thank you.



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING 242 W 36th Street 3rd Floor • New York, New York 10018 Phone: 646-473-1205 • info@nysafah.org • www.nysafah.org

NYSAFAH Testimony before the New York City Council Subcommittee on Planning, Dispositions and Concessions Support for LU 0971, 0972, 0973, and 0974 December 5, 2013

My name is Alexandra Hanson, and I am here representing the New York State Association for Affordable Housing (NYSAFAH). I would like to thank Chair Levin and the members of the Subcommittee on Planning, Dispositions and Concessions for the opportunity to testify today in support of LU 0971, 0972, 0973, and 0974 regarding Greenpoint Landing.

NYSAFAH's 300 members include for-profit and nonprofit developers, lenders, investors, syndicators, attorneys, architects and others active in the financing, construction, and operation of affordable housing. Together, NYSAFAH's members are responsible for most of the housing built in New York State with federal, state, or local subsidies. On behalf of our membership, I would like to state our support for the land use items before the subcommittee related to Greenpoint Landing.

New York City currently ranks near the bottom of the list of major US metro areas in housing affordability-21st out of 25, according to the Center for Housing Policy. Without action, the affordability crisis facing our City will only worsen. New York City's growing prosperity and appeal is driving up not only the cost of rent, but also the cost of land for new affordable housing.

Lotteries for affordable apartments built by our members often attract thousands of applicants — with applicants outnumbering available apartments by as much as 100 to 1. There is a huge unmet need, which is why NYSAFAH supports LU 0971, 0972, 0973, and 0974 regarding Greenpoint Landing, which will transform an underutilized half-mile stretch of the waterfront to a vibrant community with significant increases to affordable housing.

The approval of these items will bring even more positive impacts to an area in need of additional affordable housing. Greenpoint Landing promises an additional 431 affordable apartments, bringing the total to 1,386 units of affordable housing of the entire development.

75% of the units for eligible individuals and families range with incomes as low as \$19,000 annually for a studio to \$69,000 for a two-bedroom unit.

In addition to providing low income families with stable housing arrangements, affordable housing is shown to have myriad improvements to quality of life. Affordable housing is shown to improve childhood development, school performance, and general health for families and individuals. Additionally, affordable housing provides increased economic development, neighborhood revitalization, and job creation in New York City

Furthermore, affordable housing is an important economic driver of New York City's economy. Every public dollar invested in affordable housing generates over a dollar in private investment, as well as providing thousands of construction jobs and permanent jobs every year. Finally, affordable housing is critical to building and maintaining strong, thriving communities.

Every Greenpointer deserves access to safe, high quality affordable housing and under HPD's policies 50% of the units will be set-aside for families that have been displaced from Community Board 1 Brooklyn.

Further, these investments will create jobs, grow New York City's economy, help revitalize neighborhoods, and provide thousands of residents with an affordable place to call home.

NYSAFAH fully endorses the Greenpoint Landing development for all of the benefits it will bring to those in need of affordable housing and to the Greenpoint community in general. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify today in support of this important project.

December 5, 2013

Contact: Alexandra Hanson, New York City Policy Director, NYSAFAH (646) 473-1209



December 5th, 2013

Remarks by Carlo A. Scissura, President & CEO of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, Supporting the Greenpoint Landing Project Before the NYC Council's Subcommittee on Planning, Dispositions and Concessions Chaired by Councilmember Stephen Levin:

Good Morning. My name is Carlo Scissura and I am the President and CEO of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce (BCC). I stand before you in support of the Park Tower Group's Greenpoint Landing Project.

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce is a membership based business assistance organization, which represents the interests of nearly 1,500 member businesses.

Brooklyn is booming and its growth has been reflected everywhere, particularly its waterfront.

The Greenpoint Landing Project will transform a half-mile stretch of Brooklyn waterfront from its current state – a largely underused, vacant area – into a world-class and vibrant mixed-use development that will have a positive impact on both residents and area businesses. The Greenpoint Landing Project is a wonderful development because it seeks to create three very important elements that are needed in Brooklyn: Affordable housing, the creation of a Pre-K through 8th grade school and more park space.

The creation of 431 affordable housing units within this project will greatly help the Greenpoint-Williamsburg community at a time when rents continue to balloon in Brooklyn. This will allow those already living nearby with the chance to stay in the neighborhood. For example, an individual who earns as little as \$19,000 a year will have the chance to live in these newly-built buildings. This is an opportunity we can't pass up.

In addition, the construction of a new, 120,000 square foot District 14 school will help alleviate overcrowding in the neighborhood. The construction of a 640-seat Pre-K through 8th grade public school will be designed and built by the School Construction Authority on a parcel of land belonging to Greenpoint Landing. Again, this will greatly benefit the community.

Finally, the addition of public park space is essential for this project is to work. The Greenpoint Landing Project calls for a total of four acres of publicly accessible open space. Greenpoint Landing will also be building approximately 30,000 square feet more of publically open space than what is required by zoning. If that wasn't enough, Park Tower Group will



donate \$2.5 million to the New York City Parks Department towards the development of a 2.5 acre public park, which is scheduled to open in 2016. The park and esplanade will also serve as a storm-barrier going a long way in serving as a rebuilding and resiliency tool following Hurricane Sandy. If we learned anything from last year's storm and subsequent flooding, it's that we need to fortify and protect our waterfront from future storms.

There is no doubt this project will greatly benefit Greenpoint and all of Brooklyn. It is also great to see developers continuing to invest in the borough's waterfront post-Sandy. This project will not only be of great benefit to its residents, but the community as a whole. The creation of a school and park will go a long way in making this now abandoned area come alive.

The area is currently serviced by the G line and the B32 bus that connects Williamsburg to Long Island City in Queens. Like we have done before in Red Hook and Sunset Park, I would like to see a ferry stop placed at this new location. It would go a long way in getting Brooklynites to other parts of the borough and Manhattan in a timely manner. It would alleviate subway congestion and reduce the need for the use of cars.

Local businesses will also benefit from this project – and new ones will be created as a result. Residents and increased foot traffic helps local businesses grow. We want to see mom-and-pop stores sprout up in the area alongside national chains. The goal is to make this area vibrant. The Greenpoint Landing Project does all that – and more – and therefore needs your approval if we want to continue to make Brooklyn, and New York City, a great place to live and visit.

Thank you.



Testimony to the City Council Subcommittee on Planning, Dispositions and Concessions ULURP Nos. C 140019 HAK and N 140028 ZRK Greenpoint Landing

December 5, 2013

The Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY) is a trade association with 15,000 owners, builders, brokers, managers and other professionals active in the real estate industry in New York. We are here today to support this application that would amend in a favorable way the Greenpoint-Williamsburg rezoning from 2005.

REBNY supported the Greenpoint-Williamsburg rezoning which provided a sound and comprehensive planning framework to transform the underutilized industrial section of Brooklyn, especially its waterfront. This planning framework was rich in public open space requirements, encouraged a scale of housing development that could support affordable housing on the same zoning lot, and provided for the integration of a nascent ferry service that would enhance transportation to these new developments.

The present ULURP applications will realize the important goals of the initial rezoning and build on that important work in three ways:

- (1) The creation of 431 affordable housing units above the 20% that will be built as of right within the Greenpoint Landing project;
- (2) The development of a new 640 seat pre-k through 8th grade District 14 public school to be built by the School Construction Authority on the site (2017 completion) and;
- (3) Additional open space, totaling approximately 4 acres, and a \$2.5 million contribution by Greenpoint Landing to the creation of the Newtown Barge Park in the Northern portion of Greenpoint (2016 completion).

This development builds on the well-conceived plans of the Greenpoint-Williamsburg rezoning in a way that brings to realization these plans and makes this a better neighborhood for Brooklyn and for New York. We urge the City Council to approve this application.

Spoken Borough President

A quick history lesson, The Greenpoint community vehemently opposed the 2005 waterfront rezoning. Enormous efforts were taken by locals to block the 2005 up-zoning but were steam-rolled by an agenda based government that would not listen. Further the community boards recommendations were watered down by in-fighting over affordable housing. I must remind our elected officials they are elected to represent the will of people the not a few rich developers.

Present day,

CB1 misunderstood the community saying our only issue was lack of affordable housing. The fact is, the communities biggest issue is that we do not want luxury 40 story towers wrapping our water front. Our community is 1-3 stories with an occasional 6 story building. Our community is soon to be divided into two: the wealthy tower occupants and everyone else. Once the wealthy come they will drive up the price of everything from the cost of loaf of bread, rents, dry cleaning to a beer at the local pub. Their towers will block the views of everyone. I have not met a single person who looks forward to these towers.

I have been petitioning the public for a passive park at Box Street Park, I show them a picture of the future developments and when people see the picture for the first time they usually cringe and pause and ask me how we can stop theses towers. The issue people have with the towers is not because of affordable chousing, but their size. Good growth would be building buildings that fit the character of the neighborhood, and once there is no where to build then up-zone appropriately.

Solutions, disregard the recommendations of the community board, rezone these lots back to six stories, emanate domain first 15' of threes very deep lots for esplanade and have the city to pay for the parks.

Affordable housing in it current form is terrible, it should be called lottery housing..."Can't win if you don't play" should be the motto! This is real life, people can't plan their lives based on winning the lottery. The fact that this city needs affordable housing for people above medium income is a sign of a serious endemic problem. This city is becoming a play ground for the rich only and only the rich. We used to have a decent program for affordable housing... it was called rent stabilization, but that is going away.

Solution: Raise taxes on the millionaires and billionaires and create a housing voucher program for anyone making less then the median income. Second, Impose a tax on all vacant units owned by foreigners and out of towers to increase the housing supply and drive down prices.

Mr. borough president you know better then anyone else in this room how toxic the Newtown Creek is. We can not sit back and allow these buildings to be built by the creek. Would you allow

your grand children to live by the creek and inhale its toxic air? You don't need to be a scientist to know how bad air on the creek is, I took a canoe trip up the creek and felt nauseous for hours after inhaling the air on upper waters. This toxic air blows down the creek to be breathed in by the future residents living on the creek.

Solution: Put a moritorium on all residential building on the creek until it's cleaned up.

**FEMA guidelines for flood zones are not complete. Why is this city allowing flood zone developments before FEMA has come up with its final guidelines. These buildings need to be ready for the future, not just for more frequent flooding but also sea level rise. Let's not let the buildings get grandfathered with zoning based on old ways of thinking. Hold all approvals until we are sure these buildings will follow the new FEMA guidelines.

The transportation infrastructure situation is a mess and will only get worse, this need to be fixed before we allow the building of more housing in Greenpoint/Williamsburg.

77 Commercial Street was not zoned for 40 stories, Greenpoint does not need another 40 story building, and 15 stories is tall enough! The owners of 77 Commercial St are documented slumlords. The fewer units they build the better for humanity. We can find money for the park elsewhere and we have plenty of affordable units coming with the rest of the towers. Please vote no on this ULURP.

Greenpoint landing should build their schools inside one of their towers. This happened in Battery Park City and it is loved by the tenants of the building as they feel secure knowing their children attend school right below where they reside. Think of the space this could save as well, and the school lot could become additional parkland for play space for the children.

Both projects should build office space which bring higher paying jobs then the low paying retail jobs.

Lastly the Box Street Park should become a passive park as we have plenty of active park space and very little passive space. 98% of people that talked to me when petitioning felt the same way.



Hi my name is Darren Lipman. I am going on my 15th year as a Greenpoint resident. I would like to thank my community board and elected officials for reading my comments.

Ten thousand new people and a wall of 40 story towers surrounding our waterfront is not good growth for our our community.

Before I go into my ULURP comments for 77 Commercial Street I would like to discuss a few issues affecting the site of the proposed development.

Toxic Land, Air & Water

77 Commercial St. is planned to be built on the Newtown Creek. The Newtown Creek is an EPA registered Superfund site and one of the MOST toxic waterways in the United States. The history of how it became so toxic is interesting. Layer after layer of different toxins were added generation by generation of polluters. Riverkeeper reports the creek leaks VOCs, contains PCBs and heavy metals, all of which are dangerous to human health.

The residents of 77 Commercial St., adults and children will be living next to and possibly inhaling these toxins. Building by the creek, or even recreational activity on the the creek before it is cleaned up must not happen. The EPA is currently studying how to clean up the creek. Let's pause building by the creek until it is cleaned up and tested safe.

Flood Zone

77 Commercial St. is being built on a flood zone. During Sandy I witnessed the 77 Commercial St. lot underwater. When the water receded the area reeked of oil, one of the many toxins possibly left behind from the creek's water. The stench was enough give me a headache.

I am aware the building is to be built on elevated mounds, but I don't think the issue of how the toxic water would affect human health was covered in any environmental impact statement. I am requesting a study be done to see how flood water will affect the residents of Greenpoint before anything new is built.

Another issue to do with the flooding is the effect of flood waters displaced by the building which is built on mounds. I personally believe buildings that are on higher ground from 77 Commercial St. that would not have flooded will now flood due to the water displaced by the new building. I envision the flood water traveling up the public walkways that connect the esplanade to Commercial Street, and this will flood my and other higher ground buildings. I can't find a study which proves my theory wrong. Personal property is at stake here, and this issue must be addressed before we allow any construction.

Native American Artifacts

The Newtown Creek is culturally significant to the many Native American tribes that settled in the area over 11,000 years ago, tribes such as the Mespeatches, Canarsie and the Rockaway. Many Native American artifacts have been found along the banks of Newtown Creek throughout the years. Quoting Bob Singleton of the Greater Astoria Historical Society "archeological digs near the creek over the last century have unearthed a wealth of artifacts."

Before we blindly dig up this precious land with bulldozers and cart soil and artifacts to the landfill to be lost forever, I recommend we take time to do an archaeological dig. NYC has many prestigious institutions to support a dig such as this, for instance the Department of Art History and Archeology at Columbia University.

http://m.nydailynews.com/1.336983 http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/html/about/archaeology.shtml

77 Commercial

I request that we build the project at 77 Commercial as of right at 15 stories or lower in order to cut down on the overcrowding of Greenpoint. I understand the developer may choose not to offer affordable housing units. I also understand the eight million dollars won't be given to build the park at 65 Commercial St. This is what is best for our community.

I would like to point out a misnomer that has been going around that we will not get the park at 65 Commercial St. without the air rights sale money from the developers of 77 Commercial. This is not true; the park will come but it may take longer to be developed.

Affordable tenants become captive to their units as they can not afford to move to a free market unit and affordable housing is hard to come by. Now imagine yourself captive in unsafe living conditions as the building you live in has fallen apart due to an absentee landlord. This is what is going to happen as the owner of 77 is a habitual slumlord. For this reason the Clipper Group should not be allowed to make affordable units, period. Another reason to keep the towers as of right 15 stories.

http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/brooklyn-real-estate-king-added-public-advocate-slumlord-watch-list-article-1.441197

I believe that 77, built as of right (15 stories) will still build affordable units in order to get their

421a tax abatement. The threats not to build affordable are meant to push us to approve their ULURP.

The dual towers at 77 create more visual disruption than a single tower. I request they build as single tower.

My understanding is some towers will have separate entrances for the affordable units. I find this discriminatory, treating those tenants like second class citizens. Please build with a single entrance for all the residents. As an overwhelming percentage of affordable housing tenants are minorities, creating separate entrances for the affordable units is blatant discrimination.

Infrastructure

Overloaded public transportation such as the long waits for the L train during morning rush will become the new reality for G and 7 subway riders. New bus service will not solve the problem as the bus will only take even more residents to overcrowded subways. This is failed urban planning and the new development must be stopped until the MTA can handle the new increased traffic load. According to the Environmental Assessment Statement 77 Commercial Street's Development will take us over the threshold limit for transportation. Add in other projects in the area and we are going to have real problems.

Roads and sidewalks in Williamsburg are currently overburdened as the infrastructure can not handle the increased traffic. Narrow sidewalks make walking on Bedford and other avenues difficult as people are elbow to elbow. Changes to Kent Ave make cutting through Williamsburg slow and arduous for drivers. Before we build in Greenpoint let's not make the same mistakes that were made in Williamsburg. We must do a transportation study and create a good plan. As an example, adding a bike lane to the Pulaski bridge to free up the shared bike lane for pedestrians.

Total planned projects in the area, are expected to bring 25-30 thousand new residents to Greenpoint. Long Island City is planning to add at least another 10 thousand. 35-40 thousand new people in such a small area is a very large number of people to add without a thorough study to see the impact on sewage, water, transportation electric, gas, hospital etc. Let's hold off building until a comprehensive study and plan are made.

The Greenpoint- Williamsburg Rezoning Final Environmental Impact Statement had severely underestimated the number of new people. It only mentions 16,778 net new residents (Chapter 5 page 1) for both Greenpoint and Williamsburg. If Greenpoint Landing alone brings in ten thousand new residents this does not include Domino, Edge, 77 Commercial, Northside piers and the many other projects. The numbers swell to much more than the 16,778. This completely invalidates the Environmental impact statement of 2005. This study MUST be revised, before we

allow any building.

EAS projected population is 59% higher than the 2005 EIS estimate.

EAS used 2010 census numbers to determine population growths. An updated study must reflect current numbers.

A NY Building Congress report shows the city will be unable to sustain current investment in critical infrastructure due to growing debt burden.

Ensure wide enough sidewalks so there is room for all the new residents to comfortably use the sidewalk.

Park

I request we build a passive park at 65 Commercial Street for the following reasons:

Regarding the new box St park otherwise known as 65 Commercial St. Let's make it a passive park, a park with trees that you can picnic in, not an athletic field. The fact is the Greenpoint Williamsburg area has very little passive park space and many athletic fields. We have two huge athletic fields in Mccarren park and new full size soccer field at Bushwick inlet. Plus nearby Long island city has two full size fields.

I have a petition for a passive park at Box Street Park. I stood near the park and told people what I am telling you. Of the people that stopped and talked to me, an overwhelming 98% of the people signed it. That shows you how badly we need passive park.

There is currently talk of moving the Newtown barge park athletic facility to Box St. Park. This is a terrible idea. Newtown barge parks facilities should be maintained as it's proximity to the new school will allow quick and safe access for recess, gym and free time for the students. Other reasons for a passive park:

- North Greenpoint has very little passive park space at this time.
- Greenpoint already has one the lowest rankings for open space per capita in the city.
- An active park already exists up the street at Newtown Barge park.
- Greenpoint/Williamsburg already have 3 full size sports fields.
- 98% of people polled want a passive park at 65 Box Street, see my petition.
- Elderly and the very young in North Greenpoint don't have a park to sit in.
- I've witnessed that there is daily availability on the two soccer fields in LIC. A deal can be made to allow our residents to use their underutilized fields. These fields are very close to North Greenpoint.

- If children are not getting enough play time we should reserve our existing fields for school time practice as is currently done at the Gantry Plaza field in Long Island City.

From the plans I noticed the esplanade which is 46' wide only has a 10' wide walkway. It is obvious the developers want to take up our public walkway to provide privacy gardens for their residents. The walkways are meant for the public and should be the entire 46' with only small patches for garden area.

77 Commercial St. is very deep and should relinquish more land for the esplanade. For example, Gantry Plaza has much wider esplanades (park space) than what is slated for Greenpoint, their walkways alone are about 40', and the same goes for the esplanade area on the Dumbo waterfront. Please make our esplanade wider.

I also feel that we have not addressed in any study what will happen to our esplanade as sea levels rise. We should understand that impact before we build:

Sea rise http://inhabitat.com/rising-sea-levels-could-submerge-1700-u-s-cities-by-2100/

We must add more parkland to Greenpoint as we are heading for dead last in the ratio of people to park land citywide. We currently have one the lowest rankings of open space per capita at .06 per acre per 1,000 residents. The city guideline is 2.5, and the average for the city is 3.5 acres per 1,000 residents (2005 study).

Promised park land in Williamsburg has not materialized. Why should we expect differently in Greenpoint? Either defer the construction until promised parks are in place, or establish a timetable for delivery of all community amenities promised in 2005 rezoning including Bushwick inlet, Newtown Barge Park and 65 Commercial Street, with penalties imposed upon developers if not met.

The city must restore the 7.5 million earmarked in the 2005 WRA for expansion and re-building of Newtown Creek Barge Park.

Park and hours, let's ensure that park hours and esplanade hours of access are the same for the tower residents as they are for the rest of the community.

Financial Issues

77 Commercial St. is not good growth for our community for the following reasons:

These new buildings will not be contributing to our tax base for 25 years as they have 421a tax abatements.

All the units will be free market accept the affordable units. This means there are no controls on what the landlords can change or how they increase rents. Rent inflation in Greenpoint will be rampant.

Taxpayers will be on the hook for large grants and tax credits for the remediations of the probable brownfields the towers are to be built on.

http://online.wsi.com/article/APef25dc8e7cde4884af546b12715a370b.htm

Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent on lobbying efforts by Clipper Equities and Chetrit Group. I believe this influence is not allowing unbiased deliberation by our politicians on these projects.

Flood insurance is to spike in 2014 which undoubtedly will be passed on to the renters.

http://www.newburyportnews.com/local/x389850026/A-rising-tide

Construction Issues

The current plan as it stands today is to virtually build a new city of ten thousand residents in an area of a few blocks. There is currently in progress one major building project located at 1133 Manhattan Ave. 1133 has been very disruptive to the Commercial St. residents. Noise, building shaking, reduced street parking, lack of sidewalks and endless trucks clogging up the street are a daily nuisance for the residents. For the safety and quiet enjoyment of the residents, I request that we create a schedule of when each of the future buildings can be built. I propose that we only allow one building to be built at a time around the Commercial Street area. It is also my feeling that the contractors will find it impossible to build while multiple simultaneous large scale buildings are being constructed as they will constantly be getting in each other's way.

The current buildings foundations located in the Commercial Street area are not built on bedrock. The current soil condition allows for building vibration to travel through the soil. As 1133 Manhattan was laying their pilings, the adjacent buildings in the area experienced severe shaking. Building with caisson as opposed to pilings will cut down such severe shaking. I propose that 77 Commercial St. drill caissons.

Considering the already reduced parking due to the construction site at 1133 Manhattan Avenue, more building projects on Commercial and West streets will only result in even less available parking. To avoid exacerbating the situation, I request a moratorium on film shoots in north Greenpoint until all Commercial Street construction is completed.

Buildings

This part of Greenpoint is and was an Industrial Business area which was a hub for jobs. I recommend that 77 Commercial St. build office space as opposed to retail space to encourage higher paying job growth. Retail space will only add unneeded low wage jobs.

This buildings may be here for a long time depending on flood conditions. With the scarcity of energy and resources becoming a real problem in our time, I request that the building be constructed as platinum leed certified building.

A 40 story building is an extremely tall building for a residential neighborhood. To illustrate this point we only need to look at the residential neighborhoods in Manhattan. Many Manhattan neighborhoods tend to be not be taller than 10 stories. Examples include the East Village, West Village, Gramercy Park and Chelsea. I recommend that 77 Commercial Street be no more than 10 stories.

Greenpoint is currently a neighborhood of one to six stories. The 77 Commercial St. buildings will be about 10 times larger than most of the current buildings at 40 stories. These towers will overshadow the entire neighborhood and become an eyesore for everyone. The buildings will block the city views for every single resident eastward - from Greenpoint to higher elevation Bushwick. Again, I recommend that 77 Commercial St. build no higher than 10 story buildings.

Unlike Williamsburg, which is built on a hill, Greenpoint is flat which will make the buildings much more disruptive to the visual balance of the neighborhood. Again, I recommend that 77 Commerialt St. build no higher than 10 stories.

New luxury housing will only make the neighborhood less affordable by driving up rents throughout the rest of Greenpoint, forcing businesses to raise prices, raising property taxes and displacing even more low and middle income people out of the city. 77 Commercial St. should not be built as luxury housing but as middle income housing across the board.

This building is going to cast long shadows on the neighbors to the East of them. This means that neighbors who want to have solar panels won't be able to produce as much electricity. This type of thing is not allowed in California, and that should be applied here. See California's solar right law: http://www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov/solar_basics/rights.php

I recommend as a protocol building with permeable pavers, adding green roofs and bioswales.

Zoning

The 2005 environmental Impact statement is missing public Health comments which is another reason to redo the statement.

Newtown Creek is not part of the riverfront and has no business allowing 40 story buildings. This was a "mistake" that needs to be fixed. There is no other example of any inland waterway that is zoned R8, including the Gowanus canal.

Affordable Tenants

Affordable tenants should not be treated like second class citizens and should have full access to all the amenities available to market rate tenants.

We should not allow separate management for affordable verses market rate units. Equal consideration should be given to maintenance, repair, capital improvements and other services to both affordable and free market units.

http://gothamist.com/2013/08/18/locals_outraged_that_uws_luxury_con.php?utm_source=Gothamist+Daily&utm_campaign=d420b0f494-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_73240544d8-d420b0f494-478013

I propose all affordable units be set aside for Greenpoint residents that qualify, not open to a city-wide housing lottery.

Thank you for reading. I know that together we can make a better Greenpoint for us and future generations.

end 8/20/13

Date: Dec 5th 2013

Statement For Hearing on Greenpoint Landing Project

Attention NYC City Council

Re: Rejection of the Greenpoint Landing Project due in part to the significant negative Disparate Impact that this mega development and its requested structure of subsidies will create on the low income residents of this part of Greenpoint, many of whom are Latino.

The City Council should undertake a hard look at the structure of both the Inclusionary Housing Program IHP and the 421 a tax abatements that the developer is pursuing as part of the developments government subsidies.

Specifically, the movement of developers with the blessing of HPD, DCP and DCHR apparently to "retool" the IHP program to meet the required affordable units % of project square footage by making the affordable units for MODERATE and MIDDLE Income applicants and NOT LOW INCOME creates a distinct Disparate Impact upon the very low & low income residents of the immediate census tracts situated in and around the Greenpoint Landing Project.

To illustrate, the following census tracks that create the northern most point of Greenpoint have the following % of Households that make less than \$30,000 a year.

Census Tracts 563 (32 % below 30K), Tract 579 (38% below 30K) Tract 575 (27% less than 30K) and Tract 565 (31% below 30k).

Also its is important to note that many of these households are Latino. Census Tract 563 has a 30% Hispanic population and Census Tract 579 has a Hispanic pop of 48%.

The Furman Center at NYU calulates median income for the subbrorough of Greenpoint Williamsburg for Hispanic Households in 2009 of just \$ 22,243 annual income a year.

When you compare this fact to the fact that many of the residents in the census tracts within the 1/4 mile and 1/2 mile radius of the GPL project dont even make 50% of the IHP's base AMI of \$85,000, one can see that those mostly likely to be displaced cant even apply for the project's affordable housing even in the Low income band of HPD's IH program of 50-80% AMI. Infact with so many HH in the area below \$30,000 in income they would be at 0- to 35% of AMI.

The recent Zoning Resolution text amendment requested by Two Trees for the Domino Site would affect the GPL project as well. (See ZR text amenment N 140131 ZRK) This text amendment appears to allow the swapping of moderate income for low income hence codify the ability of developers aided by City agents (the Council, HPD, DCP and DCHR) to discriminate against the long time low income residents of both Williamsburg and Greenpoint and further push them out of these developer targedted neighborhoods where even so called affordable units alloted for local residents arent meant for them to utilize.

The City Council as well as the City agencies involved in both the IHP and 421 a pograms

should stop and pause in the approval of these mega developments funded with hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars that are applying those programs utilizing public funds in a way that clearly is discriminatory via the disparate impacts created upon populations of race and income.

It should not be lost on the City Council that the IHP program and its related subsidies has created less than acceptable results in the building of new affordable housing as per these figures from a recent ANHD study (www.anhd.org, Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development).

"Its is estimated that of the more than 21,000 new market rate housing units built as a direct result of major upzonings in designated areas (IHP), only 13% of those units (2,700 units) are affordable housing"

One can also say that the "affordable housing" is often unaffordable to the true low income as the situation in Greenpoint today now illustrates.

With this factual data in mind and the duty of the City Council as agents to uphold their fiduciary responsibilities to the public, we ask that the Council votes NO to the Greenpoint Landing Project at this time.

Thank You

signed The Community of Greenpoint & Williamsburg

- ADDITIONAL GARBAGE WILL 60 TO EAST HARLEM?

INTROVERTED RAPIALLY PLANNED TOUERS
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POTE NO



No development without urban planing! The 2005 zoning must be amended to be responsibly site specific and thus create a diverse waterfront. Public air-rights and land sold cheap in exchange for height/ bulk and affordable housing is criminal.

LANDSCAPE & WILDLIFE: The Northern Greenpoint land which is to be developed was underwater during Sandy's storm. Large concrete foundations and paved surfaces will only redirect any future overflow, back into the surrounding neighborhood, as happened with Sandy to the areas around Battery Park City & Williamsburg's Edge. Newtown Creek can not support anymore construction, other than it's development as a public state riparian/wetlands buffer zone, so as to improve local air quality, protect the monarch butterfly migratory flight path, existing cat colony and National Grid's power plant, the city's largest sewage treatment facility and our neighborhood. This approach being analogous to that of the "engineered risk reduction interventions" as described by John Boulé, VP, Parsons Brinkerhoff, Ret. Col. Army Corps of Engineers. Prior to undertaking any allowable construction along the East River, geotechnical centrifuge testing must be provided so as to better assess what constitutes this changing landscape. Why does it appear that Northern Greenpoint will suffer from a disproportionate ratio of public to private property, in comparison to developments in Northern Williamsburg and L.I.C.?

FEASIBILITY: Northern Greenpoint is inadequately supplied by basic urban infrastructure to support massive over development. Urban transportation (no direct connection to Manhattan), senior housing, hospital, renewable power are only a few examples of what needs to be addressed through analysis. Statistics of motor vehicle crashes involving bicycles and pedestrians must be provided and taken into consideration. An accurate, projective assessment of available urban infrastructure (UTMS, for example, as private shuttle buses are akin to habits of colonialism), must be made and thus define the allowable height and bulk. This ought to result in at least the halving of the numbers of the proposed development as they are now and giving us back our sunlight (a shadow diagram would clearly demonstrate Eagle Street Rooftop Farms, a world destination, would be put in shadow). Northern Greenpoint is no place for buildings comparable in size to those of Times Square. Lowrise high density construction would be more appropriate in scale. Evolution doesn't work in our favor if we take the perpetual exponential growth route, by devaluing human life and money. Speculative over development is a global issue, which must be addressed starting at home.

SUSTAINABILITY: Construction has the capability of being enormously destructive. New development will take advantage of the waterfront's striking landscape. In return for this gift from nature, nothing less than a fully certified LEED building should be erected (tax incentives). If a developer is willing to undertake this responsibility it would suggest a greater interest in long term investment, rather than quick buck gamble. An example of this sort of developer would be the Durst family, who understand the advantage of such returns. To help with assessing innovative, sustainable techniques it is important to work with advisers such as the Rocky Mountain Institute, rather than simply accept the LEED label. Don't devalue valuable property.

DISPLACEMENT: A comparative demographic study of the neighborhood and of similar developments must be made so as to justify the minimal developer contribution of affordable housing in exchange for public air rights and land. The displacement of people (businesses, bldg owners and renters) due to continued rising costs of living in the neighborhood, outweighs any benefits of having a few additional affordable units. The existence of the new zoning text Anti-Harassment Provisions best demonstrates. As it stands now, air rights and

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land are being sold to developers perpetuating the very hardships which are supposedly being adverted. (Already, too many friends and interesting people have been forced to relocate, due to the improbable rise in rents and high maintenance, paving the way for what it hard to accept as the pinnacle of humanity. Will it be affordable? A nondescript, massive, shop till you drop Neither is what may be built, which is not to say we've found our much needed middle class.)

HERITAGE: Newtown Creek, its tributary Whale Creek, the Maspaetches Native Americans and our industrial architectural heritage must be recognized and protected. It ought to be private ownerships' responsibility to allow the city to require an archaeological testing and preservation program to test for potential archaeological remains should they exist, because it is the city which has rezoned said properties to become developable.

PEOPLED CITY: Public access to the urban waterfront ought to be a human right, not a bartering tool for air rights. The neighborhood is being deprived of essential elements, several of which are river and city views. To compensate for this, in addition to as of city dweller right waterfront access, the proposed development ought to provide at the street level, unobstructed views of the river and city. Above ground parking garages, chain stores such as CVS and celebrity chef T.G.I. Fridays deplete the neighborhood of it's culturally rich character and detract from local businesses. Instead introduce another sort of buffer, an semi-private integrated zone within the proposed construction that would help to create volumetric and visual dialogue between the street and the building, for example: draw the plaza into the lobby, lift the building up so as not to block the view beyond, create an open arcade. Visual corridors are not enough, particularly given the radial planning of the land, which would ultimately create a large solid dark mass, not unlike Manhattan Avenue's view of Long Island City. Construction is not to disturb the wonderful peace of this neighborhood, drill engineered piles rather than drive them.

BUILDING DESIGN: Zoning shouldn't have to exist, but unfortunately there are designers incapable of sensitivity and foolish people who hire them. Respect for existing neighborhood fabric as required by the zoning is appreciated, though this often results in contorted, imitative, construction, rather than enduring elegant architecture, due to the developer's instinctual, though not necessarily economical need to max-out the available cubic footage. We live in a city of oddly bulked up buildings crammed behind kowtowing facades. A clause needs to be introduced which would encourage the design of a more complete multi-dimensional freestanding building, rather than merely thinking of it interns of fragmentary N, E, S and W, base and skyline profile. This would require that the project be considered holistically by design, rather than a piecemeal collection of facades, flairs and punch lists.

DEVELOPER: Why not be selective, rather than awarding priceless land to slumlords? Refer to Einhorn, E. (2007, September 27). <u>Brooklyn real estate king added to public advocate's slumlord watch list</u>. *Daily News*

Ultimate Goals:

- Downzone the Greenpoint waterfront, so that it is site specific in scale & scope.
- Engineer a passive landscaped park, for stormwater management
- Would like to see an economically/ environmentally sustainable alternative be realized.

THAME you,
BUSS Long

VOTE NO

- Swaths of land rezoned from industrial to residential w/o remapping has produced industrial size residential lots.
- High density residential developments have, in recent years, become less accessible w/ regards to urban transportation infrastructure, have increased in density & decreased in open space, starting w/ Battery Park, L.I.C. following, onto Williamsburg & sadly then our own Greenpoint.
- Several key phrases have been officially redefined in recent years, worth recognizing. Two of which are as follows: "Beginning w/ Census 2000, the Census Bureau modified the definition of a housing unit to exclude the requirement that the occupants of a housing unit must 'eat separately' from any other individuals in the bldg. In addition, the criterion that a housing unit cannot have nine or more individuals unrelated to the householder was dropped." & 2012 changes to the CEQR Technical Manual cite "open space may include housing complex grounds, if they are publicly accessible'. (1min)
- From the 2005 Rezoning FEIS Chapter 3, the proposed action would introduce 8,257 Dwelling Units, multiplied by the average household 2.27 = 18,743 additional residents, multiplied by a 5.4% vacancy rate equals approximately 17,731 new residents. Where does this 5.4 # come from?
- Why during a press conference on 5/2/05 did Bloomberg announce that the rezoning would introduce 10,800 new dwelling units, a near 6,000 person discrepancy?
- What was the purpose of drafting the 5/2/05 Points of Agreement, if it has no legal binding? As it was a very wise idea to require the monitoring of development in the rezoned area on an annual basis, updating needs analysis & planned mitigations.
- One example of such dire analysis should address why our 5 billion dollar sewage treatment facility is presently unable to handle its said capacity for wet water storage, as ground floor & basement toilets in low laying Greenpoint areas have the tendency to overflow during storms.
- Stormwater, I take issue with the Environmental Assessment Statement question 10d, "Would the project involve development on a site that is 5 acres or larger where the amount of impervious surface would increase?" Rather, the question should address how much impervious surface would be detracted from the development site, as a result of the proposed base volume.
- Who will be paying for the utility feeds & hook-ups?
- Question 1E of the EAS, "Is the project a large, publicly sponsored project?" The answer to this question ought to be 'yes'. & as a result or perhaps regardless of, a PlaNYC assessment ought to be prepared. (3min)
- Though PlaNYC states the City will "study how natural areas & open space can be used to protect adjacent neighborhoods" it rarely addresses the other half of this very important equation. Where will the water go, when it is redirected? This does not have to be a headache issue, rather an opportunity for innovation, both utilitarian & celebratory.
- Trouble w/. the Natural Resources section of the EAS, "Any wildlife present in the area is tolerant of urban conditions & low-quality habitat". "Newtown Creek is not considered a natural feature sensitive to the effects of shadowing cast from the structures given its degraded condition." This is a national Superfund site, on its way to full recovery. Construction along this waterway's southern shore should not be allowed.
- Further cumulative assessments are warranted.
- Please do expand the Greenpoint-Williamsburg anti-harassment area.
- · GARBAGE -> EAST HARLEM?

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