I'm Johanna Flores, and I am proud to call Corona, Queens, my home.

As the CEO and founder of Comunidad Latinx, a nonprofit organization,

I am excited to express my support for Metropolitan Park and its groundbreaking plan to transform the vacant parking lots around Citi Field into a public park.

This initiative is not just a project; it is an opportunity to create well-paying local union jobs that will uplift our community—and we need this.

For families across Queens, securing stable, well-paying employment is not just important—it's essential for building a brighter and better future.

Queens is the heartbeat of the five boroughs, and we want to inspire visitors to come and leave with unforgettable memories, proudly saying, "We love Queens!"

Thank you for the opportunity, and I support this project for a better Queens.

FOR THE RECORD

FOR THE RECORD

Good morning,

Thank you for the opportunity for me to be here this morning. My name is Michael Hurwitz, I'm a resident of Jackson Heights, a father of two teenagers, and one who has spent the last 23 years turning dilapidated open space into thriving centers of community activity. It is for these reasons that I speak this morning in favor of Metropolitan Park.

My approach to this project is one of transportation and green infrastructure, and climate resilience.

This project builds a state of the art, accessible subway station, safe walkways, protected bike lanes, and further connects Queens to its waterfront.

This project builds vital greenspace and parkland in a borough that disproportionately lacks open space. And that greenspace is the front line of climate resiliency, providing a crucial barrier to flooding threats, which we all know are happening more frequently and are more devastating with each occurrence.

And while it's that infrastructure that motivates my support, the way that the project organizers have

thought about incentivizing hotel guests to discover the diversity of Queens neighborhoods and to support mom and pop restaurants and shops and cultural sites shows a thoughtful intentionalism about how to leverage resources in a real way.

And when I think about the alternative, which is cement, flooding, inferior public transportation, and an elevated heat index- and let's be clear here today, I have never heard an alternative plan presented to develop this space- to simply say no does not seem like a viable option.

Lastly, there will be over 2500 units of 100% affordable housing built across the street from this project. Failing to develop that cement condemns nearly 10,000 of our neighbors to the aforementioned future of second class infrastructure and further isolation.

I appreciate your consideration, Michael Hurwitz

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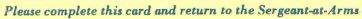
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