CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITINGS, AND DISPOSITIONS

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OCTOBER 19, 2022 Start: 10:12 AM Recess: 10:44 AM

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: FARAH N. LOUIS, CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS: CARMEN N. DE LA ROSA

OSWALD FELIZ

CHRISTOPHER MARTE

SANDY NURSE SANDRA UNG INA VERNIKOV A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

ROSA KELLEY, HPD

JACLYN SCARINCI, Land Use Council

BRIAN LOUGHLIN, Lead Architect

AMY PIVAK, HPD

HALLA SALAT [phonetic], HPD

DAVID DOWNS, Catholic Church

KASSA BELAY, Development Team, Brownsville Partnership

JONATHAN BEUTTLER, Development Team, Radson Development

NOELLE MEYER-POWELL, Brownsville Partnership

This is

SARGENT AT ARMS: Good morning.

a microphone check for the Committee on Landmarks,
Public Sitings and Dispositions. Today's date is
October 19th, 2022. Located in the Chambers.

6 Recording done by Pedro Lugo.

At this time can the host security start the live -the webinar. Good morning everyone. Welcome to
today's New York City Council Hearing of the
Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Sitings and
Dispositions. At this time can everyone please
silence your electronic devices? If you would like
to submit written testimony you may send it to
landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov. Again, that's
landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov. Thank you for your
cooperation. Chair, we are ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON FARAH LOUIS: (Gavel pounding). Good morning. I'm Council Member Farah Louis Chair of the Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Sitings and Dispositions. I am joined today by Council Members De La Rosa, Nurse, and Marte. Today I will conduct votes and hold public hearings on a number of items but before we begin I will recognize

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS,
PUBLIC SITINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

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2 the Subcommittee Counsel to explain today's hearing

3 procedures.

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ARTHUR HUH, COUNSEL: Thank you Chair I am Arthur Huh, Counsel to the Subcommittee. Louis. This meeting is being held in a hybrid format. Members of the public who wish to testify may do so in person or via Zoom. Those wishing to testify by Zoom for today's hearings were asked to register on line. If you registered to testify and are not yet signed in, please do so now and remain signed in until you have completed your testimony. If you wish to testify remotely and have not yet registered please do so now by visiting www.counsel.nyc.gov/landuse to sign up now. If you have written testimony that you would like the Subcommittee to consider in addition to or instead of appearing before the Subcommittee or if you require an accessible version of a presentation given at today's meeting, please send an email to landusetestimony@council.NYC.gov. Landusetestimony@council.NYC.gov. Please indicate

the LU number or project name in the subject line of

the email. We ask that everyone please be patient as

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we work through any technical issues today. Travel
this one out and continue with today's agenda.

CHAIRPERSON FARAH LOUIS: Thank you. now open up public hearing on LU 125 for the gateway site 26A and phase 5 developmental proposal which relates to a property in Council Member Barron's District in Brooklyn. I will note that the Subcommittee previously heard comprehensive testimony regarding this project which also includes LUs 113 and 114 on September 20th. To summarize the set of action requested for this project includes UDAP approval and an amendment to the Fresh Creek Urban Renewal Plan and amendment of a previously approved UDAP all to facilitate the development of a new eight-story mixed use building and nine four story residential buildings with the combined total of approximately 751 affordable units. I just also want to mention that we've been joined by Council Member Ung. Counsel would you please call on and swear in the applicant for this item?

ARTHUR HUH, COUNSEL: The applicant for this item is Rosa Kelley on behalf of HPD. Ms.

Kelley would you please raise your right hand and do you affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, 1 PUBLIC SITINGS AND DISPOSITIONS 6 2 nothing but the truth in your testimony before the Subcommittee and an answer to all Council Member 3 4 questions? ROSA KELLEY: Yes. ARTHUR HUH, COUNSEL: 6 Thank you. 7 CHAIRPERSON FARAH LOUIS: Thank you. Ms. 8 Kelley, you may begin. 9 ROSA KELLEY: Referencing our previous comprehensive testimony from the 9/20 Subcommittee. 10 11 I just want to reiterate that this is an amendment to 12 a previously approved UPDAP to modify the number of 13 units, the number of buildings and in particular the 14 design of the buildings from an octite to a more 15 sustainable building design. 16 CHAIRPERSON FARAH LOUIS: Thank you and 17 now I invite my colleagues to ask questions if you 18 have any. So kind. Thank you. If there are no 19 questions the applicant panel is now excused. 20 Counsel, are there any members of the public who wish 21 to testify on LU125 relating to the Gateway 2.2 Development Program? 2.3 ARTHUR HUH, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: If there are any members of the public who wish to testify on 24

LU 125 relating to the Gateway site 26A and Phase 5

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, 1 7 PUBLIC SITINGS AND DISPOSITIONS 2 Development Proposal. Please use the raise hand 3 button now. If you are participating remotely. you are here with us in person, please see one of the 4 Sergeants to first fill out a speaker card. CHAIRPERSON FARAH LOUIS: Members of the 6 7 public -- oh, okay. Since we don't have that. 8 Excuse me. So there's no questions for this panel? There's no members of the public. We are going to move forward to, will stay at ease. One second. All 10 11 right. Being no members of the public wish to 12 testify on LU 125 relating to Gateway Site 26A and 13 Phase 5 Development Proposal and Public Hearing is 14 now closed. We will now vote on -- to approve LU 125 15 which we just heard in addition to LUS 115 and 114 16 which once again the subcommittee previously heard on 17 September 20th. Together these related actions 18 comprise the Gateway Site 26A and Phase 5 19 Redevelopment Proposal in Council Member Barron's 20 District in Brooklyn. The proposal would facilitate 21 the development of one new 8-story mixed used development with approximately 191 affordable 2.2 2.3 dwelling units including 134 heirs unit and nine 4story buildings containing approximately 560 24

affordable dwelling units. Council Member Barron is

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, 1 PUBLIC SITINGS AND DISPOSITIONS 8 2 in support of this proposal. We will also vote to 3 approve LUs 119 through 124 covering the three 4 projects proposed by HPD in coordination with a dedicated development team. These three projects known as Morris Height NPC is this correct? NCP, 6 7 sorry, LUs 119 and 120 Morrisania Open Door under LUs 8 121 and 122 and Morrisania Claremont Village Open Door under LU 123 and 124 each include requested UDAP designation and project approval as well as approval 10 11 for the disposition of city-owned property as well as an Article XI Tax Exemption Request. The Morrisania 12 13 Claremont Village Open Door Project also includes a 14 request for approval of UDAP Tax Exemptions. 15 projects together will facilitate the development of up to 75 units and a mix of affordable home ownership 16 17 and rental units across various project sites. 18 Council Member Stevens whose District includes many 19 of the project sites along with Council Member 20 Sanchez and Chair Riley are all in support of these 21 proposals. And now I'd like to take a moment to recognize any of my colleagues with questions or 2.2 2.3 remarks regarding these items. See none. I now call

for a vote to approve LUs 113 and 114 and 125 for the

Gateway Site 26A and Phase 5 Redevelopment Proposal

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1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITINGS AND DISPOSITIONS 9
2	and LUs 119 and 120 for the Morrisania Open Door
3	Proposal and LUs 121 and 122 for the Morris Heights
4	NCP Proposal, and LUs 123 and 124 for the Morrisania
5	Claremont Village Open Door Proposal. Counsel,
6	please call roll?
7	ARTHUR HUH, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Chair
8	Louis?
9	CHAIRPERSON FARAH LOUIS: I vote aye.
10	ARTHUR HUH, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council
11	Member De La Rosa?
12	CARMEN DE LA ROSA: Aye.
13	ARTHUR HUH, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council
14	Member Marte?
15	CHRISTOPHER MARTE: Aye.
16	ARTHUR HUH, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council
17	Member Nurse?
18	SANDY NURSE: I vote aye.
19	ARTHUR HUH, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council
20	Member Ung?
21	SANDRA UNG: Aye.
22	ARTHUR HUH, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Okay.
23	Chair, the items are approved by a vote of five in
24	the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
25	abstentions. Oh, pardon me.

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2 CHAIRPERSON FARAH LOUIS: Council Member 3 Feliz has joined us.

ARTHUR HUH, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member Feliz, I'm sorry.

OSWALD FELIZ: Oh I vote aye.

ARTHUR HUH, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Uh -with that Chair, the vote stands at six in the
affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions.
We can keep the vote open.

Will keep the vote open but can proceed. I now open a public hearing on the Pre-Considered LUs related to ULURP Application numbers C-220427 HAK, C-220428 HUK, C-220429 ZMK and N-220430 ZRK for the Livonia4

Development proposal which relates to properties in Council Member Barron's District in Brooklyn. He got a whole lot going on. If approved these applications will facilitate the development of four new 100 percent affordable 11 and 12 story mixed used buildings. The proposal includes approximately 499 dwelling units, ground floor commercial space and community facility space at four sites along Livonia Avenue in Brooklyn. I will remind anyone wishing to testify remotely on these items if you have not

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- 2 already done so you must register online and you may
- 3 do that by now visiting council's website.
- 4 Council.NYC.Gov/landuse. Counsel, please call the first panel for this item?

ARTHUR HUH, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: The applicant panel will include Jaclyn Scarinci, Land Use Counsel, Brian Loughlin, Lead Architect and Amy Pivak on behalf of HPD. Also available for Q and A are Rosa Kelley and Halla Salat [phonetic] for HPD, David Downs for Catholic Charities. I believe we have a couple of online panelists. We also have Kassa Belay and Jonathan Beuttler also the development team and they are joining us remotely.

CHAIRPERSON FARAH LOUIS: Counsel please administer the affirmation.

ARTHUR HUH, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Panelists please. I will ask all panelists to please raise your right hand I will call on you each individually to answer the following. Do you affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in your testimony before the subcommittee and in answer to all Council Member questions?

JACLYN SCARINCI: I do.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITINGS AND DISPOSITIONS 12
2	ARTHUR HUH, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Sorry.
3	Chair Scarinci?
4	JACLYN SCARINCI: I do.
5	ARTHUR HUH, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Brian
6	Loughlin?
7	BRIAN LOUGHLIN: I do.
8	ARTHUR HUH, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Amy
9	Pivak?
10	AMY PIVAK: I do.
11	ARTHUR HUH, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Rosa
12	Kelley?
13	ROSA KELLEY: I do.
14	ARTHUR HUH, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Kassa
15	Belay?
16	KASSA BELAY: I do.
17	ARTHUR HUH, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Do you
18	approve? And Jonathan Beuttler.
19	JONATHAN BEUTTLER: I do.
20	ARTHUR HUH, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank
21	you.
22	CHAIRPERSON FARAH LOUIS: Thank you. For
23	the public if you need an accessible version of
24	today's presentation please send an email request to
25	landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov. Panelists please

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2 restate your name and organization for the record

3 because you came with a whole team today. So if you

4 could do so and also if you would like to please let

5 us know when you would like to begin showing your

6 presentation so that our staff can display it on the

7 screen. Thank you. And you may begin.

AMY PIVAK: Thank you. And can we pull up the presentation. Thank you. Great. Good morning Council Members and Subcommittee Chair. name is Amy Pivak and I am here representing HPD. I am joined by Jackie Scarinci Ackerman and Brian Loughlin of Magnusson Architecture and Planning as well as Rosa Kelley also from HPD. Next slide Thank you for having us here to present this proposal for this truly transformative project on four sites along Livonia Avenue in Brownsville. Overall the proposed project will provide approximately 498 affordable units affordable to folks at a range of incomes including supportive and senior housing as well as commercial and community facility space. Since the proposed development project is comprised of four separate sites we have a large team assembled. In addition to Brian, Jackie and Rosa we are also joined by three developers

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITINGS AND DISPOSITIONS 14
2	including Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens
3	represented by David Downs, the Brownsville
4	Partnership represented by Kassa Belay and Noelle
5	Meyers-Powell and Radson Development represented by
6	Jonathan Beuttler. Next slide please. This proposed
7	project is a result of a collaborative community
8	process that started in 2016 with residents in
9	Community Partners and led to the development of the
10	Brownville Plan. The planned detail strategies to
11	bring investment to the Brownville Community as well
12	as to put land that has long been vacant to better
13	use. In furtherance of the goals of this plan, HPD
14	released the series of RFPs to make the community's
15	priorities including this group of sites RFPs to meet
16	the community's priorities including this group of
17	sites known as Site C which has a theme of Healthy
18	Living and Food Systems. Next slide please. The
19	development team partners have committed with the
20	City to continued outreach in Brownsville after they
21	were awarded this RFP. This slide highlights the
22	continuous outreach in community engagement as it
23	included a series of public forums, the Hope Summits,
24	Driveway meetings and door to door outreach. Next

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2 I'll hand it over to Jackie to talk through area 3 context and existing conditions.

JACLYN SCARINCI: Good morning. slide please. The Livonia4 project is comprised of two specific project areas with four different development sites. This is project area 1 which is located along Livonia Avenue between Powell Street and Mother Gaston Boulevard. And Livonia Avenue in this area is major commercial corridor. It is the elevated 3 line runs along it so it is a transit oriented area and just to the north of these developments are the NYCHA Van Dyke Houses, the Tolden [phonetic] Houses and Brownsville Houses so they are town in the park buildings that we in turn fixed to 25 stories and then immediately south of the project area is the Nehemiah Homes which are twostory home ownership buildings. All right. Moving to the next slide. Five blocks west of Project Area 1 is Project Area 2 where Site C-4 is located. And this is between Amboy Street and Thomas Boyland Street. And it is right across the street from the 10 and a half acre Betsy Head Park to give you context. Next slide please. You can see from the existing condition these are long vacant city-owned

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2 lots in need of revitalization and redevelopment.

Next slide please. I'll turn it over to Brian now to walk through the project benefit.

BRIAN LOUGHLIN: Thank you. community benefits that are being provided by all four buildings directly reflect the needs of the community stated in the RFP that was released by HPD sometime ago. Those four community benefits which appear on all four of the buildings include housing affordability, economic opportunity, community empowerment and health and wellness programs. slide please. In addition to that all four buildings and the project in general provides a number of economic opportunities and they are spelled out here on the slide before you but I'll run through some of the highlights including the recruitment and training center which will and a hiring campaign which will be part of the project. Will be working with local hiring partners, Brownsville Partnership is partnering with the Brownsville work force development alliance as well as the central Brooklyn EDC. The total direct employment impact is going to approximately be 475 construction jobs, 83 permanent retail and social service jobs and 11 permanent

Development. And that's between Powell and Sackman

Street. C1 will feature approximately 226 units of

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multifamily housing. There will also be a grocery

21 store at the ground floor and a rooftop farm on the

22 top of the building that will be developed in

23 partnership with Isabahlia Ladies of Elegance and

Project Eats which are two local organizations very

25 active in the urban agriculture space in this

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neighborhood. C-2 which is just across the street moving down Lavonia between Sackman and Christopher Avenue. And C-2 will be developed by a Brownsville Partnership along with SCO of family services. building will feature approximately 81 units of supportive housing and will also have the Family Support Center at the ground floor. C-3 which is directly adjacent to that and between Christopher Avenue and Mother Gaston Boulevard. Will be developed by Catholic Charities. This will feature approximately 140 units of senior housing and will feature a large Senior Center at the ground floor servicing the community as well as the residents of this building. The second project area is down -- is moving further down Lavonia Avenue and is across the street from Betsy Head Park. C-4 which will also be developed by Radson Development in conjunction with Brownsville Partnership will feature approximately 55 units of affordable multifamily housing and a substantial youth recreation center. Next slide please. In an attempt to meeting the housing affordability goals as stated in the RFP the development team worked very hard to match as closely as they could the AMIs and the unit distribution by

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AMI within the needs of the community so on the slide that you see in front of you, the orange bands are the AMI chairs as met by percentage for the four buildings in total. The white bars are the AMI levels of community district 16 and the black bars are the AMI levels of Brooklyn as a whole. And so you can see how working within the limitations of the term sheets we did our best to meet the needs of community based on the AMI levels. Next slide please. So with that I turn it back over to Jackie.

number of land use actions we are requesting but to summarize the first is a rezoning from the existing R6 and R6 and C2-4 to an R7-2 C2-4. And that allows for the building program to include almost 50,000 square feet of community facility as well as commercial space and affordable housing residential development across the four different programs that Brian just described as well as a zoning text amendment to designate the re-zoning area of mandatory inclusionary housing areas and then the next three actions are pursuant to each PDs authority to dispose of the property to designate the area and urban development action area and also to obtain an

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urban development action area approval for each of the sites. And finally, an amendment to the Brownsville II plan or C1, C2, and C3 which only permitted commercial use and this amendment will allow the mixed used development that the applicants are proposing. And with that I thank you for your time and we're happy to answer any questions that the committee may have. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FARAH LOUIS: Thank you. I have a few questions before turning it over to my colleagues. First question is these sites have been developed for decades. Can you describe HPDs process for deciding how and when to move forward on development of city owned sites like these?

JACLYN SCARINCI: Hi. So HPD has a robust RFP process by which we move forward with the designation of public sites for affordable housing.

So as part of that process our planning teams and our borough planning teams and our neighborhood strategy teams actually work together to craft a series of outreach and engagement events. We solicit feedback from the local community on the type of programming that they want to see. This particular project is a result of the Brownsville Plan which was a really

CHAIRPERSON FARAH LOUIS: Great. And the community board voted to disapprove this project due to issues with encroachment and questions about the property lines between these properties and neighboring homeowners so have those issues been addressed?

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JACLYN SCARINCI: That's exactly right.

And I will say we have successfully resolved all but

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one of the encroachment issues and actually just this morning we got an email confirmation that on that last site we do have a path forward so I'm happy to say that we have successfully resolved or are on our way to resolving all of the encroachment issues. We do plan on confirming next steps. Confirming with the community board, the homeowner's association, the Council Member what those next steps will be but happy to report that we are well on our way to

CHAIRPERSON FARAH LOUIS: And that often happens whenever there is development there is encroachment issues so it would be good to have in writing for those homeowners and folks that have concerns with what those will look like so that they don't enter you know any kind of contact that they don't want. I know invite my colleagues to ask Council Member Nurse if she has a quick question.

resolving all of those encroachment issues.

SANDY NURSE: I guess I just have one question. So I'm seeing across the four sites there is only 14 three bedroom units. Is -- I'm just concerned. I mean obviously people are supportive of it I mean I'm just you know deeply concerned of the continuing pattern of creating affordability for like

Brownsville.

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one you know families with one child. And you're a
lot of studios here which I get for the seniors but
you know the two bedrooms are really small and I'm
sure based on the square footage those bedrooms are
probably very tiny. So if you have three kids you're
kind of really you know SOL so I guess I'm just
curious why there is only 14 three bedroom units for

JACLYN SCARINCI: So before I turn it over to Brian to discuss a little bit more about the unit mix on a site by site bases I will just say that part of what we're seeing in that mix is both the supportive housing and the senior housing and those do tend to you know skew toward single adults. And so we because we have two of the four sites for supportive and senior that is contributing to the overall mix of a greater number of studio and one bedrooms because they are --

families that have, they are big in east New York and

SANDY NURSE: Just to clarify for the C1 site which is a multi-family housing 226 unis, 4 percent of it is 3 bedroom and that's is that how much of that is supportive housing for C1? I might

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2 other questions from my colleagues the applicant

3 panel is excused. Counsel, are there any members of

4 the public who wish to testify on Pre-Considered LUs

5 | relating to Livonia4 Development Project?

ARTHUR HUH, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: If there are any members of the public who wish to testify in the Pre-Considered LUs relating to the Livonia4

Development proposal please use the raise hand button now if you are participating remotely. And if you are here with us in person please see one of the

Sergeants at Arms to fill out a speaker card.

CHAIRPERSON FARAH LOUIS: All right being that there are no members of the public who wish to testify on Pre-Considered LUs relating to ULURP application numbers C-220427 HAK, C-220428 HUK and C-220429 ZMK and N-220430 ZRK for the Livonia4 Development Proposal. The public hearing is now closed and the items are laid over. This concludes today's sorry. Sorry and now I will hand it over to counsel.

ARTHUR HUH, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Chair, asked to reannounce the vote the items were adopted today by a vote of six in the affirmative, zero in

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITINGS AND DISPOSITIONS the negative with no abstentions and they will be recommended to the full Land Use Committee. CHAIRPERSON FARAH LOUIS: Thank you. This concludes today's business. I remind that if you written testimony on today's items you may submit it at landusetestimony@Council.NYC.gov. Please indicate the LU number or the project name or project addressed in the subject heading. I would like to thank members of the public, my colleagues, subcommittee Council and Land Use Staff and Sergeant at Arms for participating in today's hearing. meeting is hereby adjourned. [gavel pounding.]

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date October 31, 2022