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Bronx County

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

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Subcommittee on Diversity in
Law

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Testimony of Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner
Regarding the Lower Concourse North (Pier 5) Project --- Agenda Item 747-750
October 10, 2017

Chairman Greenfield, members of the City Council's Land Use Committee, I am Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner and I represent the 77th Assembly District in the Bronx. As part of my district, I represent a portion of Bronx County that encompasses the Lower Concourse North Rezoning proposal (referenced as Number 747 – 750) and there are multiple items on today's agenda that specifically address the land use and zoning of that portion of my district.

As envisioned, the Lower Concourse North project brings with it substantial controversy with several local community-based organizations asserting that the land being used is in reality – parkland. I understand that the administration disagrees with that interpretation and is urging that this project move forward on an expedited timeline but – as the elected representative of local residents who would face a long term impact due to the loss of green space entailed in this project – I would urge the Committee to fully resolve this controversy before acting upon the pending agenda items.

In addition, I would encourage this Committee and all of my colleagues in government to ensure that there is a commitment to the affected families in the Bronx to fully address multiple outstanding issues before voting to approve the item Lower Concourse North-related items on today's agenda.

Specifically, a development of this magnitude must ensure open space is protected and maintain full public access to the green space and waterfront for local families. It should also; address the parking needs of local residents, reduce traffic congestion, enhance community access to the waterfront, encourage hiring local residents for construction jobs related to Lower Concourse North Project, give a housing preference to local residents for the units created by the Lower Concourse North Project, and seek to improve local air quality.

As a state legislator I have no direct role in the approval of the Lower Concourse North Project but thousands of my constituents will be directly impacted should this project go forward. I appreciate the City Council Land Use Committee's commitment to considering the many and varied interests involved and I would urge that additional time be given to reviewing the Lower Concourse North proposal to ensure that it takes into account the needs and concerns of existing community residents.

I thank you for your time and consideration.