

FOR THE RECORD

HPC
HARLEM PLATFORM COMMITTEE
"Advocating for the community"
1980 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Blvd.
Suite 1B
New York, NY 10025
Phone 917 677-3613
Fax: 253 679-3613

August 20, 2007

Committee on Land Use
City Council of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: **File ID - LU 0528-2007/** UDAAP, 217 West 147th Street, Manhattan
(N070467HAM)

Dear Council Members/Land Use Committee Members:

Please take the time to read this. I would have come before the Subcommittee(s) on: **Planning, Dispositions & Concessions** earlier today and possibly you would not be hearing from me through this missive.

However, I had been trying to track the City Planning Commission's disposition on this application and was told that it had not been filed or was not in the record. Eventually I was able to get a copy of the actual decision by going to City Planning in person. I was still told that the decision was not officially filed that's why I was very surprised to learn that this matter was before the subcommittee on Planning, Dispositions and Concessions today. That information came through a leak.

Specifically, I bring your attention to **page 3** of the **City Planning Commission's Recommendation**. At the second Whereas paragraph on Page 3 a reference is made to me stating that I spoke in opposition believing that the developer did not provide enough information regarding the development strategy to allow the community to make an informed decision. That is an understatement. As a Harlem resident who attended the hearings and meetings, which led to this present forum, the following is very close to my testimony before the Commission, since I did read it from a prepared script:

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am here today in support of Community Board 10's decision to not recommend this project.

For one, the applicant did not have site control. Correct me if I'm wrong, but site control is not indefinite.

Secondly, the Community, via the Community Board Land Use Committee meeting and at CB 10's monthly meeting, expressed that they didn't want this project and the community felt that it didn't serve their community needs.

Thirdly, the transferring of property from one city agency - DOE - to another, i.e., HPD should have community involvement, not an automatic right to transfer. This was not demonstrated and it was an inquiry that the Board was seeking and got no satisfactory answer.

The Board considered all information and testimony and voted against the project. Some of what the Board found or was not satisfied with was:

- 1.) The Board and community members also wanted to ask if the developer ever owned property that had a tax lien or lien enforcement against it. Since the developer never showed up to the full board meeting this question could not be asked and the Commission should ask that question. [*This was never asked by any of the Commission members.*]
- 2.) The fact that the developer chose to come to the Community Board and did not finish that process is disingenuous on the developer's part. [*Much of the reason why the Community Board rejected this project was because the developer never kept to his promises of returning to Community Board meetings with certain information that had been requested from him.*]
- 3.) If the developer was serious about community concessions or community support or Community Board support he would have had the stipulations semi agreed to with him (those he tried to negotiate at the Land Use Committee) or made sure his associates had them on the day of this full board meeting. He didn't show up and his perpetual associates, except HCCI, chose not to speak or present any information.

Community Board members may change and employees of HCCI, but the Community members at-large are more constant. I have trouble when people make representations that they have no direct knowledge of or can't show proof. This is what I am hearing today from the applicant's supporters.

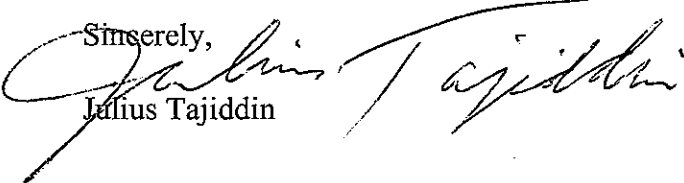
[*At the City Planning Commission hearing, statements were made by the applicant's supporters that were just not true. People were making statements from alleged hearsay and no documents of any sort were presented verifying anything that was purported. Because I attended many if not all of the recent community board meetings pertaining to this project I clearly saw the fabrication of testimony and the untruthfulness of witnesses at the hearing before the Commission.*]

On the other hand, I attended all of the hearings/meetings that led to this hearing today and make representations that I have direct knowledge of.

That said, I strongly urge the Commission to not approve this application. The recommendation of Community Board 10 to not endorse this project was sound and correct.

End

Wherefore I strongly urge the Committee on Land Use to consider the information in this missive and to disapprove of this project.

Sincerely,

Julius Tajiddin

Due to time restraints I make these statements under the penalties of perjury instead of having such document notarized. I ask that the committee factor that in when it makes its decision.