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TESTIMONY OF CONGRESSWOMAN CAROLYN MALONEY  
The New York City Council Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses  
December 15, 2009

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to offer testimony in support of a new 612-seat primary/intermediate public school facility at 616 First Avenue. I have been advocating to site a school on the Con Edison Waterside Development since I learned that Con Edison would be vacating the space in 2000. I am excited that the School Construction Authority is finalizing their purchase of Lot 1 and has announced an intended opening of the school in September 2013.

I first testified about the need for a school on the Waterside Development at a public hearing on September 26, 2002 before Public Service Commission. At the time I had heard from the community that District 2 elementary schools were at 90% capacity and there was a very real concern that a new development meant to attract thousands of residents to the neighborhood would overburden our already overcrowded schools. At a hearing the following year on the Supplemental Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SDGEIS) the New York City Board of Education projected that P.S. 116, which is located in the heart of the Waterside Development area on 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, would reach 103% capacity by 2007 without the new Waterside development. At the time I testified that these numbers lagged behind reality and sure enough, over the next 6 years more than 30 new residential buildings were constructed in the P.S. 116 catchment zone and P.S. 116 reached 113% capacity in 2008. Accordingly, residents in the neighborhood have expressed great excitement about a new school coming online to alleviate the overcrowding.

I have seen plans for the site change over the past ten years. According to the original plans some 2,000-4,000 additional residential units should already have been constructed by 2007. Clearly, the development is a little behind schedule. The uncertainty as to when private development will be completed on the site is a cause of concern to residents who worry that the new school will be completed and opened for business first, leaving children vulnerable to dangers associated with a construction site. In the past three years my district has witnessed two catastrophic crane accidents and other serious construction incidents. With that in mind, I strongly encourage the city to take all steps necessary to ensure that development of the site will be as holistic as possible, I will also work with the community and local elected officials to ensure that any opportunity to minimize the impact of construction on the students and area residents will be implemented.

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Appearance Card

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in favor  in opposition

Date: 12.15.09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Randal Fong

Address: DCAS

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: Joseph Valentino

Address: DCAS

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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in favor  in opposition

Date: 12/15/09

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Name: Dora Adams

Address: 1651 3rd Ave Suite 311 NY, NY 10128

I represent: Congresswoman Maloney

Address: 1651 3rd Ave Suite 311 NY, NY 10128

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in favor  in opposition

Date: 12/15/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Greg Shaw

Address: 30-30 Thomson Ave LIC

I represent: DYC SCA

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