



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK **COMMUNITY BOARD SIX**

**Marty Markowitz**  
Borough President

**Jerry Armer**  
Chairperson

**Craig Hammerman**  
District Manager

September 9, 2004

Hon. George E. Pataki  
Governor  
The Executive Chamber, Capitoll  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Pataki:

I am writing to advise you that at its September 8, 2004 general meeting Brooklyn Community Board 6 overwhelmingly resolved to call upon you to ensure that the Atlantic Yards Development proposal is subject to the City's uniform land use review procedure (ULURP) as part of the project's review process.

Our position is based on the following. First, there are City-owned properties and public streets within the project area that will undergo a change of ownership and use as part of the proposal. For example, in our particular district the property at 648 Pacific Street is currently a City-owned Fire Department Special Operations Command Satellite facility. This property would be incorporated into the Atlantic Yards Development proposal as it lies directly within the footprint for the arena portion of the project. Similarly affected would be the public street at Pacific Street between Flatbush and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues which would likewise be eliminated and incorporated. Both the ownership and use of these properties will certainly change. As we have come to expect, such changes would normally be subject to a ULURP review process.

Second, it is a widely held belief that this project will have a significant impact on the surrounding communities despite the fact that to our knowledge there is no finalized application. Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) Chairman Charles Gargano pointed out in a recent correspondence to us that an environmental review must be completed as part of this process; however, should such a process take place at the State level of government only, the Community Board would not have any official standing or involvement as we would were it to involve City government and the ULURP process. Naturally, given our role as a local municipal planning entity, we would be better able to fulfill our Charter-mandated responsibilities in planning for our communities, were the project subject to ULURP.

Third, while ULURP is a discrete and well-known process to us and our communities, we are not as familiar with the rules for a State review process. We have written to you, ESDC and the MTA to request your assistance and the agencies' participation at a public meeting that was proposed for September 22, 2004. This meeting would have provided a public venue for us and our communities to learn more about the State review process. We appreciate the ongoing cooperation of Forest City Ratner Company as a willing participant, but are disappointed that both State agencies declined our invitation to participate at this time. We often engage City agencies in discussions of complex projects and proposals well before

the formality of a ULURP process. It is unfortunate that State agencies do not follow the same model. Our invitation to these agencies will remain open as we remain interested in providing a venue for the public in the near future. Your cooperation, support and assistance in arranging such a meeting, with sufficient lead time to inform our communities, would be appreciated.

As a matter of public policy we believe that State and City government should seek to maximize the amount of community involvement on proposals that involve publicly-owned property and where public funding may be involved. Community Boards were established by the City Charter in part to encourage and facilitate citizen participation in government within their communities. It is our responsibility, therefore, to advocate for a process that would involve our communities in a meaningful way. We see a ULURP review process for the Atlantic Yards Development proposal as a necessary step in the project's development and encourage your support to that end.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jerry Armer  
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Marty Markowitz  
Hon. Letitia James  
Hon. David Yassky  
Hon. Sara M. Gonzalez  
Hon. Bill de Blasio  
Hon. Velmanette Montgomery  
Hon. Joan Millman  
Hon. Major Owens  
Chairman Charles A. Gargano, ESDC  
Chairman Peter S. Kalikow, MTA  
Comm. Amanda Burden, DCP  
Regina Myer, Director, DCP/Brooklyn  
Brooklyn Community Boards 2, 8  
Bruce Ratner, CEO, FCRC