

RESOLUTION, MARCH 18, 2004

Real estate developer Bruce Ratner (Forest City Ratner) plans to build a sports arena and 17 housing and commercial high-rises in residential Brooklyn (Atlantic Yards Development Proposal). More than half of his 24-acre proposal is presently occupied by private homes and businesses, property which Mr. Ratner does not own. For his proposal to proceed, Mr. Ratner will ask the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC), or the City of New York, to use the awesome governmental power of eminent domain to condemn and seize this private property on his behalf.

This abuse of eminent domain for a private use is unjustified, unconstitutional, and establishes a dangerous new precedent for development in New York—the precedent of destroying an already thriving and developed neighborhood, to replace it with a taxpayer subsidized arena/housing/commercial development for the benefit of a private developer.

Develop–Don’t Destroy (Brooklyn) and all of its supporters throughout Brooklyn and the City of New York hereby call on you to join us to RESOLVE that:

- 1. Eminent domain MUST NOT be used in the Atlantic Yards Development Proposal. Its use for this proposal is unnecessary and an abuse of the law. It must be removed from consideration immediately.**
- 2. Open bidding and a Request for Proposals (RFP) must be used for any development using the 11 acres of the MTA-owned Atlantic Rail Yards, and their air rights. In addition, a neutral appraiser must appraise the true value of the yards and their air rights.**
- 3. The New York City Council must review the current Atlantic Yards Development Proposal thoroughly, with a full and public Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and hearing.**
- 4. Any proposal built over the Atlantic Rail Yards must provide housing for all incomes and sustainable jobs for the local workforce—including an equal employment opportunity plan and, if necessary, a jobs training program.**
- 5. The process of developing the Atlantic Rail Yards, must become transparent, democratic, and must include genuine community input.**

We appreciate your consideration of support for this resolution, and urge you to join us and many others as signatories.

This Resolution is being sent to all New York City Community Boards, all New York City Council Representatives, and many New York City Civic Organizations.

Proposed By: Develop–Don’t Destroy (Brooklyn)
Attorney, Norman Siegel

PLEASE SIGN HERE: _____

Develop–Don’t Destroy (Brooklyn) is a diverse body of individuals in the proposal’s footprint, and supporters: people who believe in Brooklyn. We are represented by New York civil liberties attorney Norman Siegel.