

## **August 2006: ESDC Public Hearing Testimony**

My name is Alan Rosner and I am from Brooklyn, Pacific St. specifically. My testimony tonight concerns the ESDC's betrayal of Brooklyn & everyone in this room.

The ESDC is currently hell bent on forever changing Brooklyn's Risk Profile w/o their having to provide the PACB with a detailed analysis of what the consequences will be for all who live here.

This is a project that concentrates - at the near gridlocked intersection of Atlantic, Flatbush and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenues - three of the Dept. of Homeland Security's acknowledged Terrorist Targets: a sports arena hard by a glass clad skyscraper above an urban transportation hub that was already the target of terrorists in 1997. This after 9/11, Madrid, London, and now July's Mumbai's train bombings.

There are many of you here tonight who will pay dearly and directly for this abdication of responsibility.

Hurricane Katrina shows what lies ahead. Katrina has forever changed this low laying borough's Risk Profile. Now a year later and Travelers no longer offers Commercial Property Insurance while Allstate is busy reducing its Brooklyn Homeowners Insurance market share.

Actuaries may not be so blithe about the risks associated with Atlantic Yards considering how it is slated to become this country's densest ever census tract. Clearly Insurance Industry executives will make their market decisions accordingly.

What then will be size of the reduction in all existing local affordable housing stock, on property values, on small businesses, their expenses and the jobs they generate. That and all the other

indirect Socio-economic impacts will never be addressed. And when you discover that you can't renew existing policies or your premiums soar... .. hey, who ever could have imagined something like that happening.

Well the PACB needs to make an informed decision. They need to know that there are consequences even if no terrorist ever again sets foot in Brooklyn.

- like how Police security will affect traffic when vehicles have to be diverted or inspected
- or if trucks must be rerouted to safeguard the all glass Urban Room
- or what consequences will there be for the much publicized, but privately controlled and easily closed off Publicly Accessible Open Space
- and on and on....

By its specific location and design Atlantic Yards is a reckless, ill conceived project tied to a process where No One fully and transparently represents the State's responsibility for Public Safety.

The PACB should refuse to accept any FEIS that fails to address these profound community concerns. 9/11 and Katrina remind us that it is Immoral to play roulette with public safety.

So for the record I am opposed to this project, but I am not opposed to an alternative development of the Vanderbilt Rail Yards.

Alan Rosner  
rosnerart@yahoo.com

August 23, 2006