

September 28, 2006

Ms. Rachel Shatz
Empire State Development Corporation
633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ms. Shatz:

It is well-known that I believe Atlantic Yards is the right project at the right time in the right place for Brooklyn. Although my support began with the idea of bringing an arena and a national sports team back to Brooklyn, I now view Atlantic Yards as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create the center of urban life that Brooklyn has long deserved — literally, the Downtown Brooklyn we've never had but so desperately needed. As Brooklyn undergoes the kind of growth and changes unimaginable even a decade ago, this project represents a chance to affirm our identity as the most ethnically and economically diverse urban area in America. At the same time, the project provides a national model for 21st Century development that accommodates future population increases by creating the appropriate mixed-uses every American downtown has at a location served by an almost unprecedented number of public-transportation modes.

Over the past three years, I have heard from many community members on the Atlantic Yards Project. Their reactions to the project have run the gamut from reasonable, balanced responses to flat out denunciations. Regardless of their position, I thank every single person and organization that came forth to testify or write a letter on this project. Everyone can be confident that their voices have been heard. Their input, which has been an invaluable resource to me and my staff, will guarantee the project will work for all of Brooklyn.

Moreover, I concur on many of the project-related issues raised by Brooklyn residents, such as traffic, infrastructure, city services and parking, and have included similar points and suggestions in my attached comments on the Draft Environment Impact Statement. I fully expect your agency and the developer, Forest City Ratner Corporation, to revise the General Project Plan by incorporating many of these thoughtful recommendations. If you have any questions, please contact Carlos Menchaca of my staff at (718) 802-3642. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marty Markowitz", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marty Markowitz

Comments on the Atlantic Yards DEIS

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CC: Amanda Burden, Chair, City Planning Commission
Robert R. Kulikowski, Director, Office of Environmental Coordination
Ms. Shirley McRae, Chair, Community Board 2
Mr. Jerry Armer, Chair, Community Board 6
Mr. Robert Matthews, Chair, Community Board 8
Honorable Carl Andrews
Honorable Velmanette Montgomery
Honorable Roger Green
Honorable Joan Millman
Honorable Bill de Blasio
Honorable Letitia James
Honorable Al Vann
Honorable David Yassky

MM/ee