



atlantic chapter

June, 2004

The [Sierra Club](#), the largest grassroots environmental organization in the U.S. with over 750,000 members, 14,000 of whom live in New York City, has taken a position against Bruce Ratner's proposed project for Atlantic Avenue.

The Sierra Club opposes the project as currently planned because:

1. Currently, Empire State Development Corp. has not agreed to subject the project to local control through the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP)
2. The use of eminent domain would be used for private gain
3. Any subsidies for the project would deprive parks programs, the education system, and mass transit of much needed funds.
4. The ultramodern towers, and the rest of Ratner's project, would be out of context with the 3 and 4 story 19th century brownstones that dominate the area, as well as the old warehouses and factories that have been converted into housing.

The following are specific environmental concerns the Sierra Club has:

- The project would be at the intersection of Flatbush, Fourth, and Atlantic Avenues, which is an air pollution hotspot, and how a 3,000 car parking garage as well as additional deliveries will exacerbate the problem.
- Simultaneous construction at this site and other sites in downtown Brooklyn will cause the exceptionally high asthma rate in the area to increase.
- Whether the existing infrastructure for sewage is adequate for the additional 4,500 residences proposed for this project and the 1,500 residences being constructed locally.
- The increase in noise pollution from additional truck deliveries and event traffic.
- The extent to which the LIRR railyards are contaminated has not been determined.

The idea of erecting office towers that are taller than the Williamsburg Savings Bank, and would 'talk to it' is obscene. The Williamsburg Savings Bank is a special building

and a symbol of Brooklyn, its most prominent piece of architecture. The skyline should not be reshaped to change the dominance of this glorious building. Should any new building put the Chrysler Building or the Empire State Building in its shadow? The answer is "No". The same philosophy should apply to the Williamsburg Savings Bank.

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