

Develop— don't destroy.

BROOKLYN

Press Contact:
Daniel Goldstein
917-701-3056
press@dddb.net
www.developdontdestroy.org

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Bruce Ratner Cries Wolf Again. . . Fourth Announcement of NBA Approval Is Not Followed by Vote on the Nets *Fans and Community: "Who's Calling the Shots Here?" DDDB: "Only Ratner's Shadow Syndicate Knows!"*

BROOKLYN—On the heels of Bruce Ratner's latest false call about the NBA approving his purchase of the Nets, Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn today called on the developer to come clean to the league and Nets fans about the role his mysterious Shadow Syndicate of 50 investors is playing in making team decisions.

"The Ratner Team's management style of headfakes and headaches is turning the Nets into the laughingstock of the NBA, and causing their proposed Nets Arena Complex to unravel," DDDDB spokesman Daniel Goldstein said. "Their behavior raises some real questions about who is calling the shots — for both the Nets and Ratner's real estate scheme in Brooklyn — how much they can be trusted, and whether they are out of their league."

Fans first heard from Ratner that the NBA was going to ratify the sale in May, and then similarly premature announcements were made in June and early July. Last Thursday the New York Post reported that the NBA would vote on Friday, and the league has yet to give any indication any action is imminent.

"This has spun completely out of control, and the NBA knows it," said Fans For Fair Play's Scott Turner. "Worse still, the league is complicit in Ratner's awful treatment of sports fans and taxpayers here in New York. It's a runaway train and nobody's at the controls. No wonder the NBA won't meet with local residents to discuss Ratner's plans."

Turner's comments came amid rumors among fans that Ratner's Shadow Syndicate — which has been accused by community groups of using basketball to mask their real estate ambitions — might turn around and sell the team if they succeed in achieving their true objective: The rights to develop a 24-acre Brooklyn site that is half private and half taxpayer-owned land.

"The people of Brooklyn and New York should ask themselves, do we really want to turn over \$1 billion of our tax dollars to Bruce Ratner and his Shadow Syndicate?" DDDDB spokesman Goldstein said. "Enough with the secrets and the deceptions. We deserve to know who is calling the shots and what their plans are — now."

DEVELOP DON'T DESTROY BROOKLYN leads a broad-based community coalition fighting for development that will unite our communities, instead of dividing and destroying them.