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**Tish James, DDDDB Challenge NYC to “Get in the Game”  
after NBA Stiffs Community, Approves Nets Sale to Ratner  
*Unveils “Safety Nets Plan” to promote real public oversight  
and demand real public accountability in arena deal***

BROOKLYN – Declaring that the NBA “blew the call” in approving the sale of the New Jersey Nets to Bruce Ratner, City Councilmember Letitia James and Develop Don’t Destroy Brooklyn (DDDB) today called on the city government to finally get serious about scrutinizing the developer’s \$2.5 billion secretive, taxpayer-subsidized, sweetheart arena deal.

James and DDDDB were joined for the first time by City Council Members Larry B. Seabrook (Bronx) and Deputy Majority Leader Bill Perkins (Harlem), as well as by Christine Quinn (West Side), whose district faces the proposed Jets Stadium, Francis Byrd (57<sup>th</sup> AD ssembly District Democrat Committeeman) and Scott Turner, Coordinator of Fans for Fair Play.

“The NBA blew this call,” DDDDB Spokesman Daniel Goldstein said. “So now it’s time for our elected officials to get off the bench, get in the game, and start protecting the public interest.”

Toward that end, DDDDB today formally unveiled its “**Safety Nets Plan**” – a 10-point action agenda that is designed to insure real public oversight and real public accountability for Ratner’s \$2.5 billion arena and high-rise development proposal.

Key planks of the Safety Nets Plan, which DDDDB and its many allies will be aggressively lobbying for over the next several months, include:

**Step #1:** Immediate implementation of the city’s standard Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) to allow community review of the Ratner Plan. The City Council must demand that the Mayor and Governor ensure that this Plan goes through ULURP.

**Step #2:** As part of the ULURP process, open public hearings to explore and establish (a) the best development plan for the MTA/LIRR’s Atlantic Yards; and (b) the best and most appropriate location for a proposed Nets arena (possible alternative sites to be considered -- Coney Island, East New York, Brooklyn Navy Yard, sites to be determined in Queens).

- Step #3** Full public disclosure of **all** City and State subsidies being requested by the Developer, including but not limited to: True cost of the rail yards, based on intended use; moving and/or platforming over the rail yards; true cost of the city streets to be acquired and demapped; development and improvement of infrastructure, including (but not limited to) new and/or upgraded roadways and transit facilities, schools, police and fire services, sanitation, water, power, etc.; subsidies to corporate tenants to induce them to occupy the office space; rent paid by city or state agencies to occupy the office space.
- Step #4:** Open bidding process to determine true value of the MTA/LIRR's Atlantic Yards site – which Ratner is proposing to use for his development – including an independent, verifiable, published appraisal based on the intended future use of the site, not its current state
- Step #5:** Formal analysis by NYC's Independent Budget Office, the State and City Comptrollers, the City Council's Economic Development Committee and the State Financial Control Board to establish the economic impact of the Ratner Plan on the taxpayers of New York City and State
- Step #6:** Eminent domain and the threat of eminent domain must NOT be used for this project. Therefore full public disclosure of the exact boundaries of the Ratner Plan footprint to determine which residences, businesses and community resources will be directly affected, must be forthcoming immediately.
- Step #7:** Public Scoping Hearing to determine which elements of the Ratner Plan require an environmental impact study and how that study will proceed.
- Step #8:** Signed, legally binding guarantees from the developer (or developers) regarding pollution, noise, and rat abatement if and when construction begins
- Step #9:** Signed, legally-binding contract with the City committing to publicly-promised job creation and affordable housing targets based on Brooklyn's median income, with clear definitions and specific numbers for all categories.
- Step #10:** Approval by City Council, State Assembly and State Senate of any Memorandum of Understanding executed by unaccountable state corporations and/or authorities (MTA, ESDC) and a private developer that commit any city or state subsidies to the project.

“We are willing to go to court on any and all of these items,” Goldstein said. “If Mr. Ratner thinks that Brooklyn is going to roll over and play dead the way the NBA did, he’s got another thing coming.”

“They tell me this is all about money,” said Council Member James. “They tell me money will win the day. But people will win the day. Taxpayers will win the day. They will not separate us by race, by class. We all stand together.”

***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.***

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