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DDDb Files Official Complaint with NYC Conflicts of Interest Board

*Demands City Planning Commissioner Dolly Williams
divest interest in Ratner development plan or face legal consequences*

BROOKLYN – Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn (DDDB) today lodged an official complaint with the Executive Director of New York City's Conflicts of Interest Board. The complaint charges that City Planning Commissioner Dolly Williams—a part-owner of Bruce Ratner's Nets syndicate—is in violation of Chapter 68 of New York City's Charter, which forbids City officers from owning an interest in firms doing business with the City.

According to multiple news reports, Williams owns an interest valued at \$1 million or more in the syndicate that Bruce Ratner assembled to purchase the New Jersey Nets and develop his proposed Nets Arena complex, which would include 17 office and residential towers.

“This is a flagrant violation of City law,” said DDDB spokesman Daniel Goldstein. “As a Planning Commissioner, Williams can smooth the way for this project, which is going to line her pockets at taxpayer expense—and she's drawing a \$45,131 City salary while she does it.”

DDDB's letter to Mark Davies, Executive Director of the City's Conflicts of Interest Board noted that Williams has already voted on zoning decisions that impact the Ratner project, which originally overlapped with the Downtown Brooklyn Development Plan. DDDB's letter, which is copied to the City's Attorney General, calls on the Conflicts of Interest Board to force Ms. Williams to divest her interest in Ratner's project, or face possible legal consequences.

“We intend to pursue any Ratner investors with conflicts of interest or ethics,” Goldstein stated.

“It's ridiculous for Ms. Williams to claim this isn't a conflict. Does she think New Yorkers are idiots?”

- **For the full text of DDDB's letter of complaint, go to**
www.dddb.net/letters/dollyconflict.pdf
- **For a full list of Ratner's investors, go to:**
http://www.brooklynpapers.com/html/issues/vol27/27_33/27_33nets1a.html

*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.*