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City Council Members Charles Barron and Christine Quinn Join Tish James's Call for Nets Arena Complex Oversight *Warn Against "Fronting" by Developers*

MANHATTAN—City Council Members Charles Barron (D-East New York) and Christine Quinn (D-Upper West Side) today joined Brooklyn's Letitia James on the steps of City Hall to demand that the City's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) be applied to Developer Bruce Ratner's proposed Nets Arena Complex.

Calling for new development priorities, James said, "Affordable housing is the biggest need in my district. We are at a crisis point."

Quinn, who opposes building a Jets Stadium on Manhattan's Upper West Side, said, "Tish James and I have many things in common—and unfortunately, stadium proposals in our districts are one of them."

"We want development," Barron declared, echoing similar comments by both James and Quinn. "We want job creation. But we cannot allow developers to front Jay-Z, to front Bernard King – as if all we care about is basketball and rap – and fool us into accepting a plan that will cost the City, and add to traffic and pollution, without delivering what the community needs. We can't be fooled by promises of jobs and housing that don't pan out."

Scott Turner, Coordinator of Fans for Fair Play, added, "Sports fans aren't stupid. We can read between the lines, and we know when we're being used to promote a real estate venture."

"Ratner doesn't even own the team yet," said Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn (DDDB) Spokesperson Daniel Goldstein, "and already he's ripped out its heart. He'll rip out the heart of our communities, too, if we give him ownership of Brooklyn."

Other speakers at the City Hall press conference were Irene Van Slyke, speaking on behalf of State Senator Velmanette Montgomery, and Francis Byrd, Democratic Committeeman from Brooklyn's 57th Assembly District.