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BROOKLYN

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Nets Fire Sale Begins *Taxpayers to be Burned Next*

BROOKLYN--News that Bruce Ratner's Nets have agreed to sign and trade Kenyon Martin to the Denver Nuggets for three first-round picks has confirmed Brooklyn sports fans' worst fears about the NBA's newest owner.

Scott Turner, Coordinator of DDDDB's coalition partner Fans for Fair Play, stated, "The Kenyon Martin trade is another indicator that Bruce Ratner could care less about what's best for the Nets and Nets fans. If he can't even get this right, imagine what he'll do to New York City's taxpayers."

"Ratner's deal was never about basketball," said DDDDB Spokesperson Daniel Goldstein. "It's just a real estate deal, and the Nets are the loss leader--with the emphasis on *loss*. First the fans get burned, then the taxpayers will get burned, to the tune of half a billion dollars."

Goldstein's reference was to an independent study of Ratner's proposed Nets Arena Development, the Kim/ Peebles study, shows that taxpayers will lose half a billion dollars on the project. A report commissioned for Bruce Ratner admits that the Arena component of his plan will be a money-loser.

"He's robbing people blind, " said Turner. "The NBA hasn't even ratified him yet, and he's already stolen the Nets' heart and soul and shipped it off to Denver."

For Fans for Fair Play, contact Scott Turner, 917-771-1383, scott@fansforfairplay.com or go to www.fansforfairplay.com

For more information on Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, go to: www.developdontdestroy.org

For the Kim/Peebles economic report, go to: www.dddb.net/public/EconReport.pdf

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