

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—November 29, 2004

**Develop Don't Destroy Unveils
Community-Designed "UNITY" Plan**
*Alternative to Ratner Proposal Features Equal Housing Density,
More Local Jobs, Vibrant Street Life and No Displacement*

BROOKLYN—In response to a presentation of Bruce Ratner's controversial "Atlantic Yards" proposal hosted by Community Boards 2, 6 & 8, Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn (DDDB)—whose repeated requests to present a community-designed alternative plan for the MTA/LIRR site have been denied by the Community Boards—unveiled the plan at a late afternoon press conference.

Dubbed the "UNITY" plan, because it unites neighborhoods to imagine a transformation of the rail yards that benefits *all* communities, the plan was first developed at the Atlantic Yards Development Workshop sponsored last March by Councilmember Letitia James.

"They say this Ratner proposal is about basketball," said Daniel Goldstein, spokesperson of DDDB. "But the arena is nothing but a money losing Trojan horse for an enormous and blatant land grab. It's time we put tax dollars directly towards the needs of our communities, instead of putting them in the pockets of Bruce Ratner and hoping that some crumbs will fall off the table for the rest of us."

Marshall Brown, one of four architects who supervised the UNITY Plan's initial development, pointed out its superior features, including:

- Affordable housing of equal density to Ratner's, without going above 12 stories (the Ratner plan would build 17 skyscrapers up to 53 stories high)
- More retail space, to support local small businesses
- New streets and a publicly-owned "greenway" uniting Prospect Heights and Fort Greene (Ratner's proposal would "demap" streets, creating what many fear will be a walled, privately-controlled fortress along the model of MetroTech)
- A democratic design process that seeks to address *all* community needs and provides for multiple owners instead of just one.

State Senator Velmanette Montgomery was among others who spoke in favor of the UNITY Plan and process. "My district needs truly affordable housing and jobs," Senator Montgomery said, "not just empty promises."

To view the UNITY plan, go to: www.dddb.net/public/UNITY.pdf

***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.***