

Develop— don't destroy.

BROOKLYN

Daniel Goldstein, Spokesperson
636 Pacific Street, Apt. 703
Brooklyn, New York 11217
press@dldb.net
www.developdontdestroy.org

August 2, 2004

CO SIGNERS

NYPIRG/Straphangers Campaign
Gene Russianoff, Senior Attorney

Fifth Avenue Committee
Michelle de la Uz, Executive Director

**Pratt Institute Center for Community
and Environmental Development**
Brad Lander, Director

Pratt Area Community Council
Deborah Howard, Executive Director

Fort Greene Association
Ruth Goldstein, President

**Atlantic Avenue Betterment
Association**
Sandy Balboza, President

Dr. Tom Angotti
Professor of Urban Affairs & Planning
Hunter College

**The Brooklyn Bear's
Community Gardens Inc.**
Jon Crow, Coordinator

Prospect Heights Action Coalition
Patti Hagan, Chair

**Friends and Residents of Greater
Gowanus**
Earnest Migliaccio, Board Member

Fans For Fair Play
Scott Turner, Founder

Brooklyn Vision
Philip Truscott, Chair

Boerum Hill For Organic Development
Irene Van Slyke, President

**Fort Greeners For Organic
Development**
Lucy Koteen, Chair

Assemblyman Richard N. Gottfried
LOB 822
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Assemblyman Gottfried:

The citizens of Brooklyn and New York City are under threat of a massive development proposal for Prospect Heights, Brooklyn bypassing all city review and oversight, with an end-run around ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure). Without ULURP our communities have no input into this project and our city legislators will have no oversight or opportunity to vote on the proposal.

Mr. Ratner's proposed Atlantic Yards Development of 17 high rises and a basketball arena would cover 11 acres of MTA rail yards and, through an abusive use of eminent domain condemnation, 13 acres of private property. The project also proposes to demap three blocks of city streets. The project has its largest impact on Brooklyn and the city, and it would change Brooklyn forever. Yet the developer and his political allies are doing all they can to push their project past the city and onward to the state, removing oversight, transparency and community input.

We and our elected officials cannot let this usurpation of crucial city powers occur.

Therefore we are calling on the Assembly to take every step possible to keep this project within ULURP, doing so loudly and publicly. We call on you and the Assembly to reinvigorate and pass your Bill #A2835. As you know, Bill #A8235 is summarized this way:

This legislation would make the State's Urban Development Corporation (UDC, now the ESDC) powers to condemn and acquire land in New York City subject to NYC's uniform land use review procedure (ULURP) as specified in the existing City Charter.) (A2835 is here: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A2835>)

If ULURP is appropriate and deserved for the West Side Stadium (Speaker Silver has proposed a bill to require ULURP for the Stadium), then surely it is appropriate and deserved for this 24-acre proposal in Brooklyn. Many thousands in Brooklyn and beyond will support your call for ULURP.

We are also asking the Senate leadership to propose companion legislation to A2835, and we are very willing to work with any Senator who wants to propose this legislation.

All elected officials representing the proposed site and five surrounding neighborhoods are strongly united in their opposition to the project and fully support the use of ULURP. Those officials are: Congressman Major Owens, State Senator Velmanette Montgomery, Assembly District Leader Francis Byrd, and City Councilwoman Letitia James. So, as we in the 57th Assembly District are without representation in the Assembly until January, we need the help of all Assembly members to provide us with our right to a voice in our legislature. We need your help during this extremely crucial moment for our district's and communities' future.

Sincerely,

Daniel Goldstein
Develop Don't Destroy (Brooklyn)
Spokesperson, Steering Committee Member

Cc: All Assembly Members

*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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Boerum Hill For Organic Development
Irene Van Slyke, President

**Fort Greeners For Organic
Development**
Lucy Koteen, Chair

State Senator Jim Alesi
Albany, New York

Dear Senator Wright:

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Mr. Ratner's proposed Atlantic Yards Development of 17 high rises and a basketball arena would cover 11 acres of MTA rail yards and, through an abusive use of eminent domain condemnation, 13 acres of private property. The project also proposes to demap three blocks of city streets. The project has its largest impact on Brooklyn and the city, and it would change Brooklyn forever. Yet the developer and his political allies are doing all they can to push their project past the city and onward to the state, removing oversight, transparency and community input.

We and our elected officials cannot let this usurpation of crucial city powers occur.

Therefore we are calling on the Senate to take every step possible to keep this project within ULURP, doing so loudly and publicly. We call on you and the Senate leadership to propose companion legislation to Assemblyman Gottfried's Bill #A2835. Bill #A2835 is summarized this way:

This legislation would make the State's Urban Development Corporation (UDC, now the ESDC) powers to condemn and acquire land in New York City subject to NYC's uniform land use review procedure (ULURP) as specified in the existing City Charter.) (A2835 is here: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A2835>)

If ULURP is appropriate and deserved for the West Side Stadium (Speaker Silver has proposed a bill to require ULURP for the Stadium), then surely it is appropriate and deserved for this 24 acre proposal in Brooklyn. Many thousands in Brooklyn and beyond will support your call for ULURP.

We are very willing to work with any Senator who wants to propose this legislation, particularly Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business chair, Senator Alesi.

All elected officials representing the proposed site and five surrounding neighborhoods are strongly united in their opposition to the project and fully support the use of ULURP. Those officials are: Congressman Major Owens, State Senator Velmanette Montgomery, Assembly District Leader Francis Byrd, and City Councilwoman Letitia James. So, as we in the 57th Assembly District are without representation in the Assembly until January, we need the help of all Assembly members to provide us with our right to a voice in our legislature. We need your help during this extremely crucial moment for our district's and communities' future.

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