

## OPEN STATEMENT FROM THE COMMUNITY LEADERS OF THE EAST HARLEM TRIANGLE

It is the intend of this document set forth by the East Harlem Triangle community leaders and residents to state the following position on the UPTOWN NY project proposed for development in the Triangle area:

- 1- Because the city government agencies involved did not reach out and speak to those of us who would be most affected by the project in question, we are at this time opposed to such a project being built.
- 2- In the history of the East Harlem Triangle community, the city has never proposed a bid in the Triangle designation or East Harlem the size of which is 241,000 (two blocks) sq.ft. for a project that has not been physically presented to anyone in our neighborhood, we are opposed to this process.
- 3- In view of what has been presented, we are outraged that there is no afro-centric design or flavor of which we can relate to, we are opposed to what we believe is prejudice and discrimination to the African American people in particular and to the Puerto Rican community of which we have great respect and support for.
- 4- From the leadership residing in the Triangle and are current UPTOWN NY Task Force members, we are informed of the following:
  - No minority contractors are on the development team
  - No minority sub-contractors or construction supply vendors from the neighborhood have been offered a contract for services.
  - No minority architects, engineers, developers invited to participate as partners to the project, however we are informed that another non-minority developer was added to the current team; Bruce Ratner of Forest City Ratner Co.
  - No agreement to hire East Harlem residents with construction skills for the project
  - No participation in the design concept other than suggesting a "wish list" of projects to be included in the development
  - No response on the request for a 25% partnership agreement unlike a CBA, the partnership would establish a set aside of an annual percent of the profit/revenue for the use of the community services.

- Concerns about pollution, noise pollution, poisoned air, rat infestation (Coming from the site), traffic congestion etc. and no concrete plan to address these problems
- Consideration must be made toward the development of a new medical site, current hospitals and clinics are overextended.
- Consideration for a new firehouse for better response time of EMS/Firefighter upon and emergency
- Multi-cultural center which reflect the composition of those who live in the neighborhood
- No new parking space for buses, we support building over the existing depot on 126<sup>th</sup> street, or relocate the bus depot to LaLa land
- Lack of respect for the most sickly community in the Unites States and city government having the nerve to add more pollutants to threaten our longitivity and further sicken our children and the elderly

You have not given the residents of the East Harlem Triangle any reason to support this project in anyway. We're not in it! Everything about this project spells disaster. Every step the city government has taken to secure this project raises questions about legalities on how the project came about, the support it has received from our elected officials and where the money is coming from to build it.

In conclusion, we the people of the Triangle are opposed to this project as is. We are convinced this project is exclusionary, discriminatory, and racist and sends a message of gentrification in the air. We intend to demonstrate and rally against this project until a fair or more equitable share of the project is in our control.

From:

The community leaders and residents of the EAST HARLEM TRIANGLE.