



PROSPECT HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY

October 20, 2004

Executive Summary

An extensive survey of people who live and work in Prospect Heights, an extremely diverse neighborhood of some 20,000 people near downtown Brooklyn, conducted by the Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development (PICCED) and Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council (PHNDC), between June and September 2004, found that residents not only want development, but have very strong and clear opinions about the kind of future they envision for their neighborhood.

While residents favor development, they also value and want to retain certain neighborhood characteristics. These include:

- social and economic diversity
- good public transportation
- access to parks and open space
- architectural quality
- strong sense of community

Residents, however, want future development to address the neighborhood's current shortcomings. Key areas identified that require improvement are:

- public education
- public safety
- housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income households
- street conditions, traffic safety and parking availability

Residents also support development that will provide *permanent living-wage jobs and meaningful economic opportunities for low-income populations* in Brooklyn and identified commercial services that are needed for the neighborhood. These include:

- small local restaurants and diners
- businesses related to arts and culture
- specialty shops

Opinion about the Proposed Brooklyn Atlantic Yards Project

An overwhelming majority (81.4%) of survey respondents said that they were either very concerned or concerned about the impact of the proposed Brooklyn Atlantic Yards Project by Forest City Ratner Companies on Prospect Heights and surrounding neighborhoods. Specific concerns (listed from highest to lowest) include:

- increased traffic
- cost to taxpayers
- impact of construction related nuisances over 10 years
- displacement of residents and businesses due to eminent domain
- mismatch between existing and proposed scale of development
- impact on public transportation
- increased real estate prices
- loss of community character