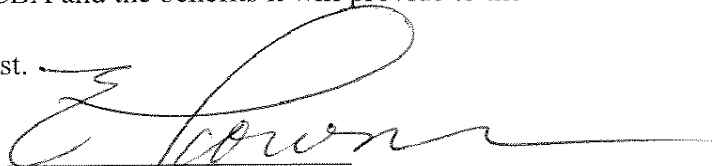


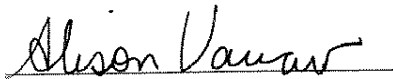
my colleague' right to ask that their voices be heard in this matter, I cannot agree with their request to delay the environmental review of the Project. In addition to creating jobs- both construction jobs and permanent jobs- the Project would bring affordable housing, community facilities and a world class sports arena tenanted by a National Basketball Association team to our community. Forest City Ratner Companies, the developer of the Project ("FCRC") has long been committed to development in Brooklyn and has a long standing and well deserved reputation for working with the community in connection with its developments.

3. As part of this Project, FCRC has taken the extraordinary step of executing a comprehensive Community Benefits Agreement with a coalition of civic and religious group that evidences its commitment to making the Project part of our community. That agreement provides for, among other things, job training programs, assurances that a substantial portion of construction contracts are awarded to minority and women-owned businesses, hiring preferences for poor and minority members of the surrounding community, relocating to comparable new apartments within the Project for tenants who are displaced by the Project (at rents comparable to their existing rents), and a commitment that 50% of the new rental housing in the Project is affordable housing. These provisions address problems that are endemic to my district and to all the area surrounding the Project site. Delaying the environmental review of the Project and thereby delaying the implementation of the CBA and the benefits it will provide to the community would not be in the public interest.



Edolphus Towns

Sworn to before me this
2/9/06 day of February, 2006.



ALISON VACCARO
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 01VA5066683
Qualified in Kings County
Commission Expires 9/30/06