

Develop— don't destroy.

BROOKLYN

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DDDB Demands that Ratner Arena Plan Get Same Public Scrutiny as Downtown Brooklyn Development Plan

*City Council should apply Land Use Review process to find out what Bruce
Ratner is hiding from people of Brooklyn*

BROOKLYN—As the City Council gathered to vote on the Downtown Brooklyn Development Plan, Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn (DDDB) today condemned the double standard that is being applied to Bruce Ratner's Nets Arena and Development Plan.

DDDB spokesman Daniel Goldstein said it was inexplicable that the Downtown Plan is subject to the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) – which culminated in today's City Council vote -- while the Ratner Plan is not.

“Although we condemn the Downtown Plan's over-development, out-dated urban renewal premise, and use of eminent domain to forcibly evict people from their homes, at least the City's ULURP process is transparent and democratic,” Goldstein said.

“Mr. Ratner, on the other hand, is forcing his secret, taxpayer-subsidized sweetheart deal down the Community's throat through a wholly opaque and undemocratic process, without any real or meaningful public input, scrutiny, or accountability. That's a flagrant foul in any arena.”

Goldstein noted that Ratner is purposely pushing for the Empire State Development Corporation—which operates without City oversight, and does not require state legislative approval—to be the lead agency on its \$2.4 billion proposal to avoid answering to the community.

“Under ESDC,” Goldstein stated, “this boondoggle would face only one public hearing, and never see a legislative vote. Which raises the question: What is Bruce Ratner so afraid of? What does he have to hide?”

Speaking for the broad DDDB coalition, Goldstein called on the City Council to impose a ULURP process that gives “full and genuine voice” to the community. “When a developer wants more than \$1 billion in public money for a private project, public officials have a responsibility to exercise genuine public oversight. We deserve answers to our concerns.”

*DEVELOP DON'T DESTROY BROOKLYN is a broad-based community coalition
fighting for development that will unite our communities instead of dividing and destroying them.*