

MARCH, 2004

Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn Position Statement

People in Brooklyn may want the Nets, but...

NO ONE wants a destructive, secret, taxpayer-subsidized sweetheart deal forced on the community. We want a development plan that maximizes its benefits for Brooklyn, rather than for a development company. We believe that Brooklyn and New York City deserve much better than what Forest City Ratner has proposed, which repeats the urban renewal mistakes of the past which we must not repeat.

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

WE OPPOSE the anti-democratic process that Forest City Ratner has used, and continues to use, to push its arena and skyscraper development plan on the people of Brooklyn without our input or consent.

WE SUPPORT community-based proposals and a fair, public, democratic, and transparent development process. We support proposals that allow our communities, the people who live, work and run small businesses in Brooklyn, to shape our futures. This is best accomplished through the City's ULURP process. (The UNITY Community Development Plan for the Atlantic Rail Yards can be found at: www.dddb.net/public/UNITY.pdf)

WE SUPPORT local hiring, local businesses, sustainable jobs, job training, career development and truly affordable housing.

WE SUPPORT utilizing the Brooklyn model of horizontal density found in the communities surrounding the proposed site, as well as development that has the least possible negative environmental impact on our communities.

WE SUPPORT an RFP (Request for Proposals), open-bidding for multiple developers, and an independent appraisal for the MTA-owned rail yards.

WE OPPOSE the use of eminent domain for Mr. Ratner's private development; its use for this proposal is inappropriate, abusive, and appears to be unconstitutional.

WE OPPOSE the use of taxpayer subsidies for a private arena. We oppose the use of taxpayer subsidies for a high-rise, private, for-profit development in low-rise Brooklyn neighborhoods.