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Formed with the participation of: Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association · Boerum Hill Association · Boerum Hill For Organic Development · Brooklyn Bears Community Garden · Brooklyn Vision Foundation Inc. · Cambridge Place Action Coalition · Clermont/Greene Ave Block Association · Dean Street Block Association · Develop Don't Destroy-Brooklyn · East Pacific Block Association · Fans For Fair Play · Fifth Avenue Committee · Fort Greene Association · New York Preservation Alliance · North Flatbush Business Improvement District · Park Slope Civic Council · Park Slope Greens · Park Slope Neighbors · Pratt Area Community Council · Prospect Heights Action Coalition · Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council · Sierra Club-Atlantic Chapter · Society for Clinton Hill · South Portland Avenue Block Association · Warren Street St. Marks Community Garden

Press Release, SENT TO :cbneighborhoods@ yahoogroups. com

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Council of Brooklyn Neighborhoods Calls on PACB for Terror Study

The Council of Brooklyn Neighborhoods today sent a letter to the members of the Public Authorities Control Board, the State body responsible for critical consideration of the proposed Atlantic Yards development, calling on it to urge the Empire State Development Corporation to perform a thorough public analysis of any potential terrorism issues in regard to Atlantic Yards. Terrorism and Security were two areas of study requested by CBN and other community groups in response to last year's Draft Scope of Analysis, a document describing the areas the ESDC intended to analyze in the DEIS. The ESDC replied that the neither study would be performed because they weren't required according to the environmental legislation. (It should be noted that those requirements have not been updated in over 12 years and that the legislation allows for the addition of study areas at any time.)

“Over 100,000 people live in the vicinity of this project,” said CBN

spokesperson Jim Vogel. “It is unacceptable that their safety and security should be compromised by hair-splitting about the letter of the law.”

From the letter:

“We are particularly concerned about the profound range of consequences resulting from concentrating, in what would be the nation’s most densely populated urban tract, adjacent to one of Brooklyn’s busiest intersections, three Department of Homeland Security-designated terror targets: a glass-walled sports arena and a glass-clad office tower built above the borough’s largest transportation hub, which was, in 1997, the target of a thwarted terror plot.

...The ESDC has claimed that it does not have a specific mandate to look at post-9/11 issues. It is equally true, however, that the ESDC should have a public responsibility to fully acknowledge and analyze safety concerns brought to its attention by the community in accordance with the SEQRA process.

... Issues of public safety and security related to terrorism should be as much a part of New York’s planning process as earthquake protections are to San Francisco’s.”

The letter was copied to all relevant state officials. A copy of the letter is attached below this message.

The COUNCIL OF BROOKLYN NEIGHBORHOODS (www.cbrooklynneighborhoods.homestead.com) is a coalition of recognized diverse community groups active in Community Boards 2, 3, 6, and 8. CBN is comprised of 40 community organizations that have joined together to ensure meaningful community participation in the environmental review of the proposed Atlantic Yards development in Prospect Heights, Brooklyn.

Council of Brooklyn Neighborhoods

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