CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DISPOSITIONS AND CONCESSIONS

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April 23, 2015 Start: 1:15 p.m. Recess: 2:24 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Room

16th Floor

B E F O R E: INEZ E. DICKENS

Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Darlene Mealy

Ydanis A. Rodriguez

Andrew Cohen Mark Treyger

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Baaba Halm Assistant Commissioner Government Relations and Regulatory Compliance NYC Housing Preservation and Development HPD

Ted Weinstein
Director of Bronx Planning
NYC Housing Preservation and Development HPD

Phillip Morrow President SoBRO

Nathaniel Montgomery Senior Vice President Real Estate Development SoBRO

Nicole Clare Assistant Director Settlement Housing Fund 2 [sound check, pause]

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: Good afternoon.

[coughs] I am Council Member Inez E. Dickens, Chair of the Subcommittee on Planning, Dispositions and Concessions. I would like to welcome everyone to today's hearing. I want to thank and acknowledge my Sergeant-at-Arms Ramon Rodriguez. I also want to acknowledge and thank my Land Use Director Raju Mann; Deputy Director, Amy Leviton; and my attorneys Ann McCaughey and Dylan Casey. I want to acknowledge my senior colleagues who are members of Planning Subcommittee Council Member Darlene Mealy and Council Member Mark Treyger. There will be no gold stars handed out today.

We have four items on our calendar today that we will be hearing and voting on. I'm opening up the public hearing for Land Use Items No. 212 and 213, also known as New Roads Plaza. The projects are related and they're located in Council Member Arroyo's district in the Bronx. The application is submitted by HPD seeking approval of a UDAAP. I'm going to call up, please to testify, all of HPD, Baaba Halm, Ted Weinstein and Nathaniel Montgomery.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DISPOSITIONS 1 AND CONCESSIONS Nathaniel? Is that your name? I'm going to 2 No. 3 wait for you for jus a minute. NATHANIEL MONTGOMERY: [off mic] 5 CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: Okay. Please turn on your mic and identify yourselves. 6 7 COMMISSIONER HALM: Good afternoon. name is name is Baaba Halm. I'm HPD's Assistant 8 9 Commissioner for Government Relations and Regulatory Compliance. 10 TED WEINSTEIN: Ted Weinstein, Director 11 12 of Bronx Planning for HPD. COMMISSIONER HALM: We are here to 13 discussion LU 1212--212 and 213 related to New Roads 14 15 Plaza, as you identified. The project consists of a UDAAP Project Approval and disposition of six city-16 owned lots located at Block 2369, Lots 1, 2, 53, 54, 17 90 and 153, along with three additional private--18 privately owned parcels located on the same block. 19 Which will be confirmed -- combined to form the project 20 21 area. The sponsor is proposing to develop and eight-22 story building area under HPD's Supportive Housing 23 Loan Program for formerly homeless persons with special needs, as well as low-income families and 24

individuals. Referrals will be made by the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DISPOSITIONS 1 AND CONCESSIONS 5 Department of Homeless Services for 60% of units, 2 3 which will receive Project-Based Section 8. The other 40% percent of the units will be available for 5 the general population with incomes up to 60% AMI. Once completed, the project will include a total of 6 7 94 residential units plus a one--one unit, a 2bedroom unit for a superintendant. There will be a 8 9 mix of unit types including studios, one and twobedroom units. The average rent for a studio will be 10 \$215 for the special needs apartments. The average 11 rent for a low-income unit will be between \$864 for a 12 1-bedroom and \$1,024 for a 2-bedroom unit. 13 14 project will also include 5,378 square feet of open 15 space, which will include a children's play area in 16 the rear yard, two rooftop terraces as well as administrative offices, social services offices, and 17 a secure--a security desk. 18 19 The other LU Item 213 seeks approval for a special permit for the project area to allow an 20 increase in floor area ratio from 3.44 to 6.5 in 21 order to maximize the number or units, which can be 22 23 built on those sites. Without this bar increase,

development of the project would not be financially

25 feasible.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DISPOSITIONS AND CONCESSIONS 6				
2	CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: Thank you. Thank				
3	you, Baaba. Mr. Weinstein, do you have anything to				
4	add?				
5	TED WEINSTEIN: No, but I'll be happy to				
6	answer any questions.				
7	CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: All right. I'll				
8	start the questions. I want to ask aboutis there				
9	any other subsidy for the rent? Because it's \$1,024				
10	for 2-bedroom I believe for low-income and \$865 for				
11	1-bedroom, is that correct?				
12	COMMISSIONER HALM: Yes.				
13	CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: Uh-huh, that's for				
14	the low-income?				
15	COMMISSIONER HALM: Yes.				
16	CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: Now, is there any				
17	other subsidy that's going to be put in such as				
18	Section 8, et cetera? That's number one. Number				
19	two, since thisis this going to be 100% special				
20	needs or is this low-income plus special needs? What				
21	is this?				
22	COMMISSIONER HALM: It's low-income plus				
23	special needs. It's a 60/40 split; 60% of the units				
24	for low-income, 40%				

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DISPOSITIONS AND CONCESSIONS

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2 is still allowed as an M11 or an R72. Specifically,

3 you know, you're asking about there's a special

4 permit--

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CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: [interposing] Yes.

TED WEINSTEIN: --which is part of this

application.

CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: Yes.

TED WEINSTEIN: It's a combination of the zone and the use for it. It's very common actually in these situations for our special needs buildings. Is that if it's a non-profit of philanthropic institution providing facilities with sleeping accommodations, they can apply for through the ULURP process for a special permit, which allows an increased FAR for your ratio. The normal FAR for this particular location is zoned on an R72 would be 3.44. The special permit would actually allow for a 6.5 FAR. The developers are not going to actually be making use of that. They don't require it. I believe it's a 5.2 something is the actual floor area that they'll be developing. So they--they get that bump. It allows them to do additional units, which makes the project much more financially feasible--

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services will need to be provided on site. And with

some of them they might need, you know, services, you

know, daily or sort of-- If there's any clarity, I

5 | would appreciate that.

homeless. They've being referred, and they're under the New York New York III contract. I can't say exactly what their issues are, but they are people in need, but are able to be living independently, which is the point. This is permanent housing. So they may have been coming out of the shelter system, but they are now able to live independently with the assistance of the counseling that will be provided on site through Urban Pathways.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Because some individuals, for example, might need medication on a daily basis. Sometimes it needs to be supervised.

TED WEINSTEIN: Urban Pathways is an experienced special needs provider. They've done other projects through HPD's programs, and SoBRO will be managing the building in general. Urban Pathways providing those services. So we're very confident that the—the needed services will be provided.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: And—and for the units for those with special needs, are these like single rooms, or what types of what size apartments are you talking about?

TED WEINSTEIN: They're studios. There are 50. It works out that there are 57 studio apartments. Those will be for the special needs households, and then the one and the two-bedrooms will be for the general population.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Because the issue becomes if any of those families or individuals need very high needs a studio limits them as far as the services they can have.

TED WEINSTEIN: [interposing] These will be for individuals.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Right, but I'm saying sometimes an individual needs someone on site. Sometimes they need actually someone there to actually take care of them.

TED WEINSTEIN: Well, these are people who were found that they can live independently.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Okay. All right, Chair, I just want to highlight that there's a critical need to address this, but my concern is

person who was the occupant-owner will be moving.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DISPOSITIONS AND CONCESSIONS 15				
2	COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you.				
3	CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: Were thewere the				
4	purchasers of those homes were they single-family or				
5	one to fours? What were they?				
6	TED WEINSTEIN: I believe they're single				
7	family. Oh, I'llI'll ask SoBRO. Is that better?				
8	TED WEINSTEIN: Uh-huh.				
9	CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: All right, thank				
10	you so much, but please remain, please remain. I'm				
11	going to ask Nathaniel Montgomery and Phillip Morrow				
12	of SoBRO to please come up, and join them for				
13	testimony. Identify yourselves once you turn the mic				
14	on. Please.				
14 15	on. Please. [pause]				
15	[pause]				
15 16	[pause] PHILLIP MORROW: Good afternoon.				
15 16 17	[pause] PHILLIP MORROW: Good afternoon. CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: Good afternoon.				
15 16 17 18	[pause] PHILLIP MORROW: Good afternoon. CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: Good afternoon. PHILLIP MORROW: So, wewe are a				
15 16 17 18 19	[pause] PHILLIP MORROW: Good afternoon. CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: Good afternoon. PHILLIP MORROW: So, wewe are a CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: No, please identify				
15 16 17 18 19 20	[pause] PHILLIP MORROW: Good afternoon. CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: Good afternoon. PHILLIP MORROW: So, wewe are a CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: No, please identify yourself.				
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	[pause] PHILLIP MORROW: Good afternoon. CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: Good afternoon. PHILLIP MORROW: So, wewe are a CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: No, please identify yourself. PHILLIP MORROW: Oh, Phillip Morrow. I'm				

2 CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: And I might add
3 that I'm very familiar with SoBRO and Mr. Morrow and

4 \parallel the work that they've done.

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PHILLIP MORROW: Yes. So we are--this project is part of our mission to provide housing for the lowest income individuals and families in the -- in our community. And we targeted this to a mentally ill population, and Pathways is providing the services. They'll have on-site full-time staff that will provide counseling and other services. Plus we'll have 24-hour security just to clarify that issue. So that we know we have a secure building. This is a--this will be our third project in this vain or fourth really. But the third one we're operating ourselves because we have a couple other special needs buildings that we--where we provide not only provide the housing, but the social services. But, in this instance because we haven't had a lot of experience working with the mentally ill, we brought in Pathways to assist us and to provide the services. The project as far as to clarify the other question about the houses that were there, the few houses on the site a couple of them were empty and one was occupied. We acquired those over the last couple of

CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: All right, seeing no--is anyone else here to testify? Seeing that no one else is here to testify and there are no more questions, I want to thank you, the panel for coming up, and testifying and I'm closing.

[background comments]

Member Arroyo is—has—has agreed that this is what she would like to develop at that site. I'm closing the public hearing on Land Use Item No. 212 and 213. Thank you, and next I will open the hearing on Land Use Items No. 214 and 215 otherwise known as 1561 Walton Avenue in the Bronx. These projects are also related and are located in Council Member Cabrera's district. And this application is submitted by HPD seeking the approval for a UDAAP, and I believe that Council Member Cabrera is in agreement with this? All right, and identify yourselves again.

COMMISSIONER HALM: Baaba Halm, Assistant Commissioner of Government Relations, HPD.

TED WEINSTEIN: Ted Weinstein, Director of Bronx Planning for HPD.

CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: Now, Nicole Clare is she here? Come up, come up, please at the same

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time. You're from Settlement Housing Fund, is that correct? Identify yourself at the same time so that we can ask all the questions. That's right, to save time.

NICOLE CLARE: My name is Nicole Clare,
Assistant Director of Settlement Housing Fund. We
are the developer of this project.

COMMISSIONER HALM: LU 215 consists of the ULURP action allowance of the acquisition of Block 2845, Lot 47 in order to facilitate that other project, LU 214 consists of the ULURP action for the UDAAP designation project approval and disposition of the same property. The project consists of an undeveloped irregular property that was sold by the City in 1989 to be used as parking for staff of several multiple dwellings, which were also sold by HPD and renovated through HPD's Construction Management Program. Authority for that disposition was provided by the accelerated UDAAP process, which does not authorize disposition for new construction development of residential units greater than four units. There is now interest in developing the irregular lot for affordable housing purposes. And, therefore, we are here to seek ULURP approval for the 2 acquisition of the proposed project site. And

another ULURP action to dispose of the property for

 \parallel the purposes that I just described.

Under HPD's extremely low and low--and low-income affordability program, the new construction of one 11-story building with 59 rental units plus one unit for a superintendant will be developed on this site. Income eligibility for those 59 units will be distributed among income levels ranging from 40% AMI to 60% AMI. They will be a mix of studio one, two and three-bedroom units. And the rents will on average be from \$532 for a studio to \$1,835 for three-bedroom unit. There is also going to be a set-aside of nine units for formerly homeless persons who will receive Section 8. The project will include 370 square feet of community facility space.

CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: Thank you. Nicole, do you have anything to add about what Settlement House, the visions there and what you're going to do?

NICOLE CLARE: Sure. I'm happy to provide a little--a little extra color. Settlement Housing Fund is an affordable--a non-profit affordable housing developer. We've been in existence since 1969, but since the late '80s when we

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DISPOSITIONS AND CONCESSIONS 21
2	acquired several existing buildings from the city,
3	we've developed and run and managed over 900 units.
4	We started with 900 units and it's currently over
5	1,000 units of affordable housing in that area. So,
6	we see the opportunity to redevelop the lots
7	currently used as staff parking to provide additiona.
8	affordable housing. But because of how we acquired
9	the lot with existing buildings, we do need approval
10	in order to develop. So, again, it providesit's a
11	mix of incomes growing up to 90% of AMI.
12	CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: All right, and so
13	this is going to be very low-income or low-income?
14	NICOLE CLARE: It'sit's several very
15	low-income, and up to low-income. It will be
16	moderate income actually.
17	CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: Oh, moderate?
18	NICOLE CLARE: It'sit's extremely low,
19	low and a handful of moderate-income units.
20	CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: All right, and Ms.
21	Clare [sic] just todo you have any three-bedrooms?
22	NICOLE CLARE: Yes. We currently have
23	eight.
24	CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: Keep going.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DISPOSITIONS AND CONCESSIONS				
2	TED WEINSTEIN: They're workers on the				
3	housing.				
4	CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: Oh, so I understand				
5	that.				
6	TED WEINSTEIN: So on the other side				
7	CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: [interposing] You				
8	look out for your own employees?				
9	COMMISSIONER HALM: Sure. [laughter]				
10	TED WEINSTEIN: On either side of this				
11	property are buildings only managed by Settlement				
12	Housing.				
13	CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: Okay. All right.				
14	And I believe Council Member Cabrera is in agreement				
15	with this?				
16	COMMISSIONER HALM: Yes.				
17	CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: Are there any				
18	questions from my colleagues? Council Member Mealy.				
19	COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I just need one				
20	clarification. You said the one-bedroom is \$1,835?				
21	COMMISSIONER HALM: No, that was for a				
22	three-bedroom unit?				
23	COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Oh, a three.				
24	Okay, thank you.				

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DISPOSITIONS AND CONCESSIONS 24						
2	CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: Do any of my						
3	colleagues have any questions? All right, seeing no						
4	questions, I want to thank you, the panels for coming						
5	to testify today. I want to acknowledge that I see						
6	in the audience, we didn't work her today, Artie						
7	Pearson [sp?], and thank her for her attendance. I'm						
8	closing the public hearing on Land Use Items 214 and						
9	215. I note for the record that the applications						
10	that we are voting on today has my support and that						
11	of the local council members. I now call on my						
12	counsel to call the roll on a vote to approve Land						
13	Use Items 212, 213, 214 and 215.						
14	LEGAL COUNSEL: Chair Dickens.						
15	CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: I'm voting aye, and						
16	I ask my colleagues to vote aye to approve the						
17	motion.						
18	LEGAL COUNSEL: Council Member Mealy.						
19	COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on all.						
20	LEGAL COUNSEL: Council Member Cohen.						
21	COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye on all.						
22	LEGAL COUNSEL: Council Member Treyger.						
23	COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I vote aye.						

1	AND CONCESSIONS 25					
2	LEGAL COUNSEL: Land Use Nos. 212, 213,					
3	214 and 215 are approved by a vote of 4 in the					
4	affirmative, 0 in the negative and 0 abstentions.					
5	CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: I would like to					
6	thank the members of the public, my colleagues, my					
7	counsel and Land Use staff for attending today's					
8	hearing.					
9	[pause]					
LO	CHAIRPERSON DICKENS: Okay. Please mark					
L1	your calendar, and be sure to attend our next					
L2	hearing, which will be held on May 5th. I am going					
L3	to leave this hearing open for 15 minutes to allow					
L 4	other members to come and vote. Thank you all for					
L5	attending.					
L 6	LEGAL COUNSEL: Okay, are we all set?					
L 7	Council Member Rodriguez.					
L8	COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye, and even					
L 9	though I didn't get with my goal yesterday, this					
20	meeting is adjourned.					
21	[gavel]					
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1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON AND CONCESSIONS	PLANNING,	DISPOSITIONS	26
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World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date ____May 3, 2015