

Testimony of Gustavo Battle In Opposition to the Proposed Rezoning of East 156th Street Zoning and Franchise Committee, May 2, 2017

Good morning. My name is Gustavo Battle. I am a building service worker at Phipps Houses' Courtlandt Corners complex in the Bronx. I am here today to tell you a bit about my experience at a Phipps Houses building.

I have been working at Courtlandt Corners since August 2013. When I was hired by Phipps's contractor at Courtlandt Corners, my salary was \$11.50/ hour. After a year, it went up to \$11.79/hour. Since 2014, it has stayed at \$11.79/hour. So, this isn't a recent issue. My wages have been stuck in the same place for three years. As we all know, the cost of living has gone up in that time so it has gotten harder and harder for me to make ends meet.

My coworkers and I have struggled to get by on our salary. Many of us rely on Medicaid for health insurance because the insurance our employer offered was far too expensive on our salaries. We work in one of Phipps Houses' affordable housing complexes, and cannot afford to rent the majority of the units in the buildings where we work. One of my coworkers has lived in a shelter with his daughters for the last three years.

Over the past year, at hearings like these, Phipps has said repeatedly that the time to discuss workers' rights is after a development is built. I'm here to say that waiting until then is too late for the workers like me who could well be hired at poverty wages and have to spend years fighting to increase their pay.

Phipps Houses has a stated mission of helping the people of New York City build healthy, prosperous communities, but I am part of the community and Phipps has done nothing to make sure that I can prosper. The Committee should vote no on this project.

Thank you.



Westchester Mews

May 2, 2017

City Council Public Hearing

Project Summary

Zoning Map Changes:

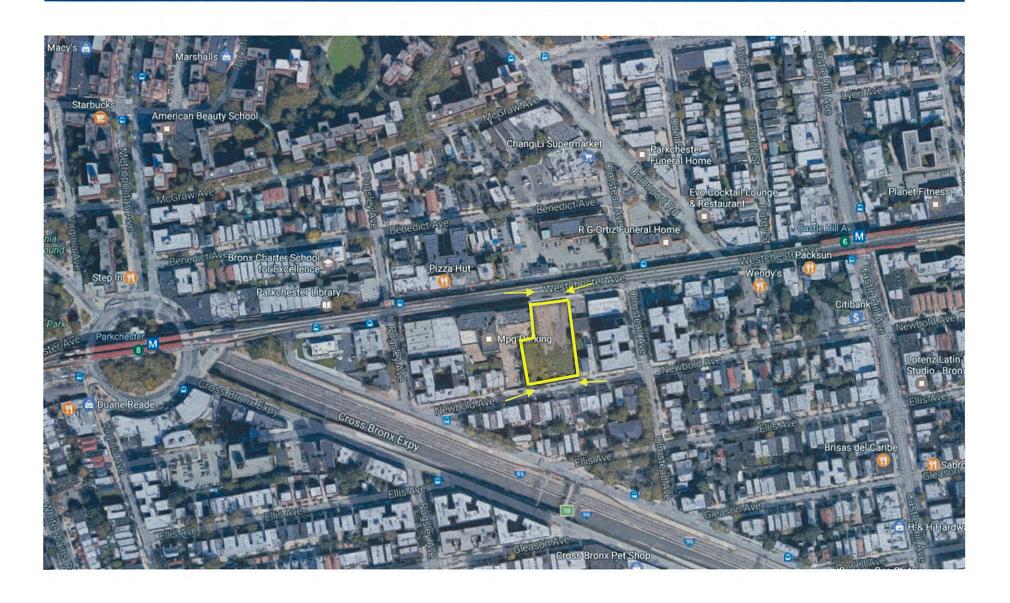
- The proposed Zoning Map Amendment would change the zoning of that portion of Block 3805 that is currently zoned R5 to R6
- The existing C2-2 overlay mapped from Westchester Avenue to the Mid-Block line in the area currently zoned R5 would be changed to C2-4

• Zoning Text Amendment:

- Include Zoning Text Amendments to Zoning Resolution ("ZR") 23-154 Inclusionary Housing, sub section b to enable increased FAR in R6 districts mapped within an MIH district
- Include a Zoning Text Amendment to Zoning Resolution ("ZR") 23-153 for Quality Housing Buildings
 - Creates a rational and desirable site plan that would benefit both residents and members of the community
 - These changes would apply to all future rezoning actions with a non-contextual R6 District with a MIH area and would require a public review process
- Inclusionary Housing Designated Areas for Community District 9, Bronx to establish the area proposed for rezoning as a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing ("MIH") Area Option 1 & Option 2
- Develop 206 units of affordable housing under the HDC and HPD Mix and Match Program as well as the HPD Our Space Program across 2 lots in the Parkchester neighborhood of the Bronx
- Community Board: 9
- Council Member: Annabel Palma

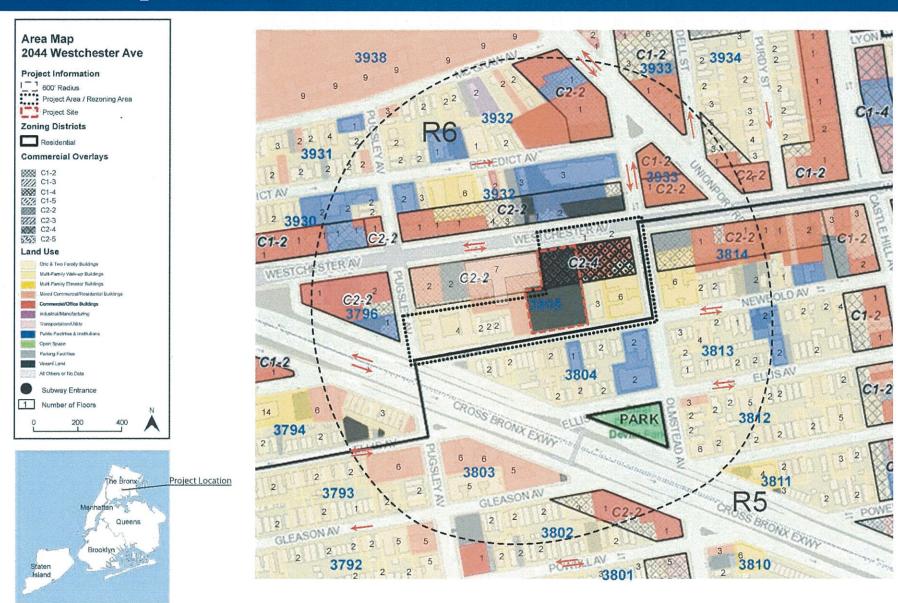
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Site Aerial View

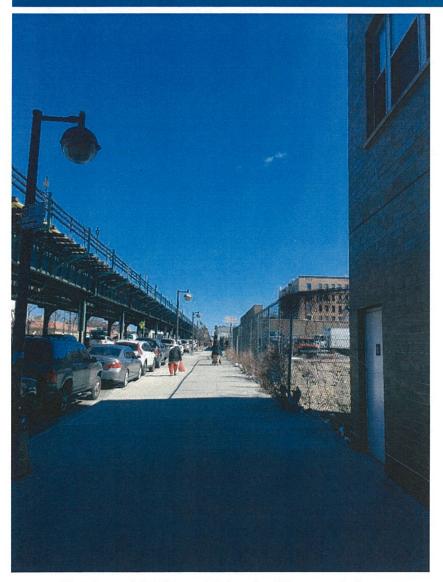


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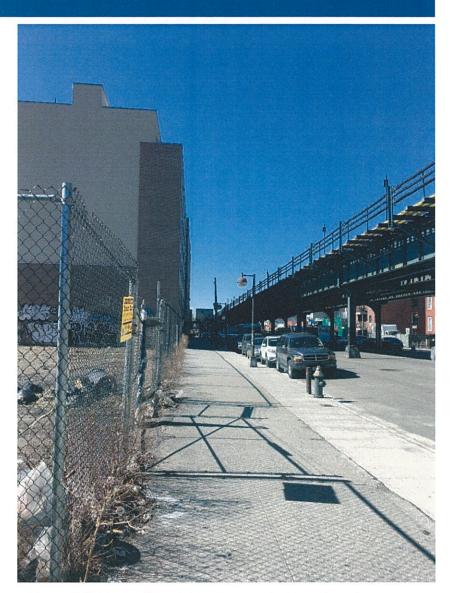
Area Map



Existing Area

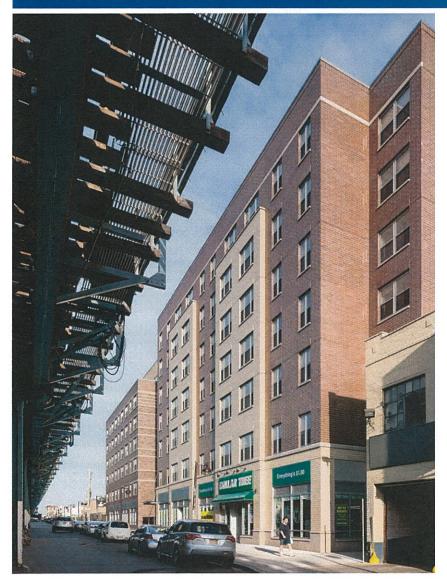


Eastward looking towards Olmstead Ave.

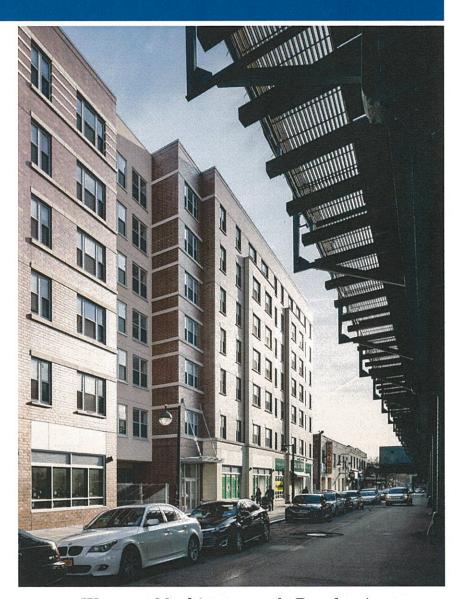


Westward looking towards Pugsley Ave.

Existing Area



 $Eastward\ looking\ towards\ Olmstead\ Ave.$



Westward looking towards Pugsley Ave.

Existing Area



Eastward looking on Newbold Ave.

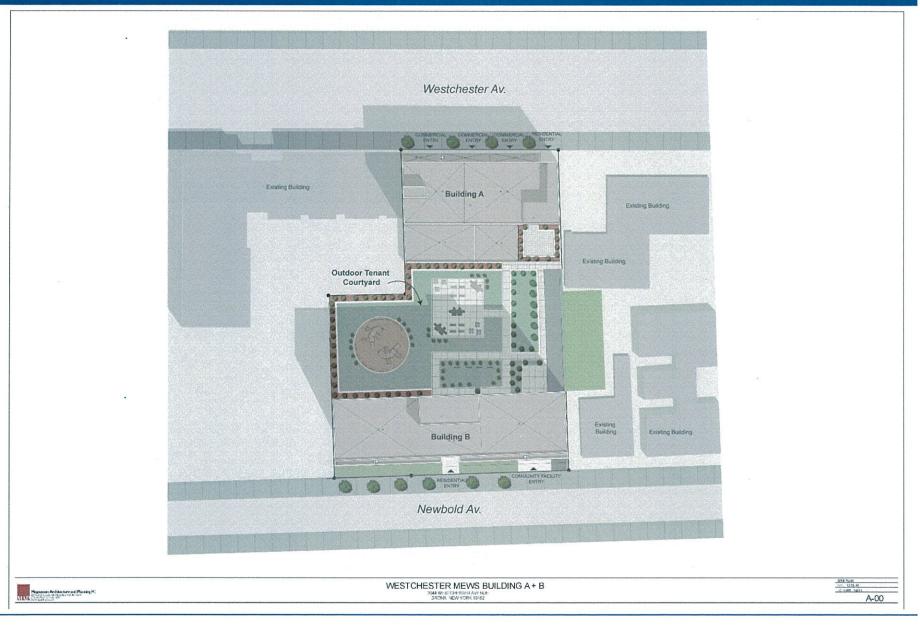


We stward looking on Newbold $\mbox{Ave}.$

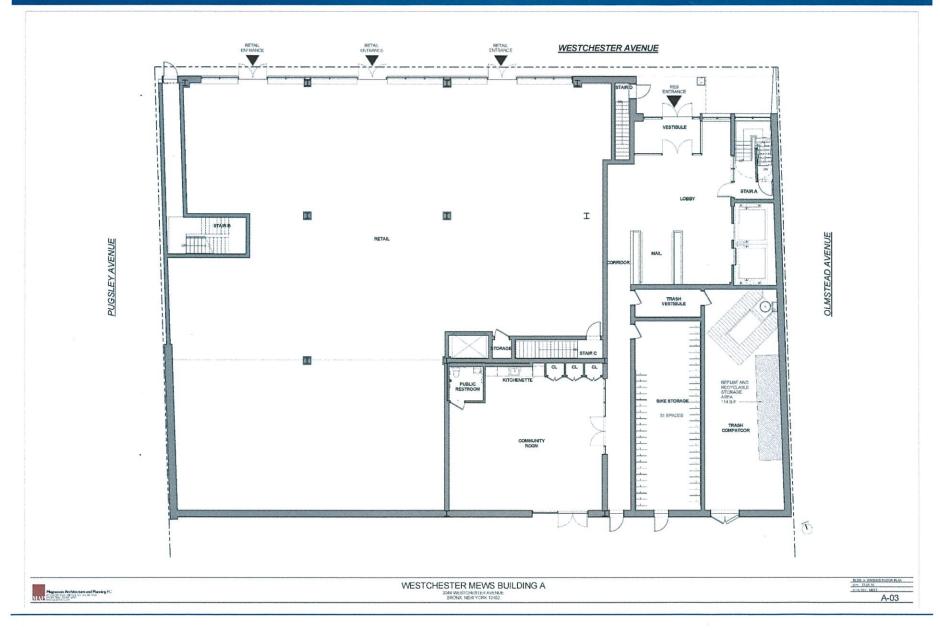
Unit Distribution

- Unit Distribution
 - 47 Studios
 - 60 1BR Apartments
 - 64 2BR Apartments
 - 34 3BR Apartments
 - 1 Super's Unit (2BR)
 - 206 Total Units
- Building A (Westchester Avenue)
 - 82 Units
 - ~95,000 GSF
 - ~7,900 GSF Commercial
 - ~87,000 GSF Residential
- Building B (Newbold Avenue)
 - 124 Units
 - ~116,000 GSF
 - ~1,200 GSF Community Facility
 - ~114,000 GSF Residential

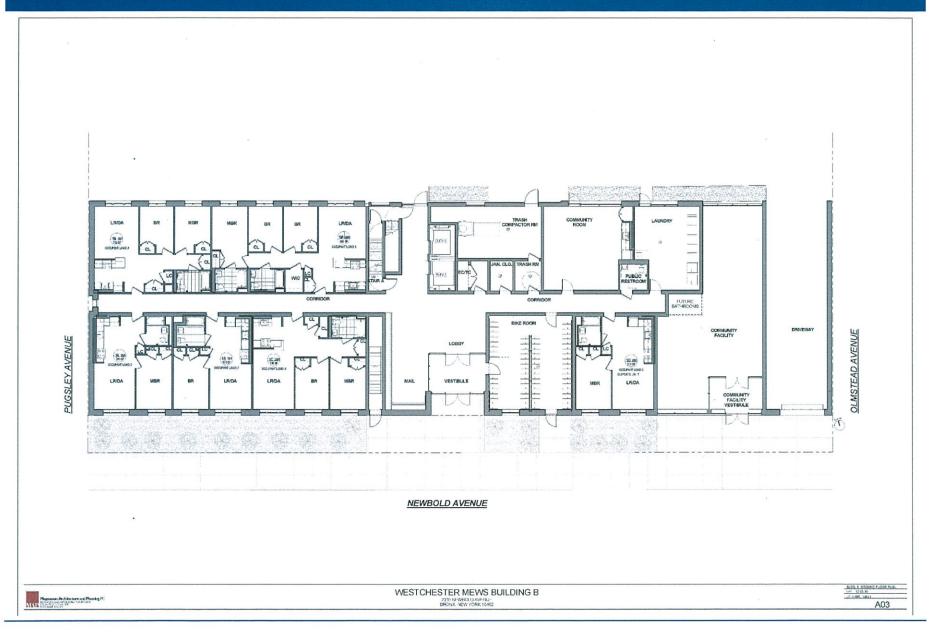
Site Plan



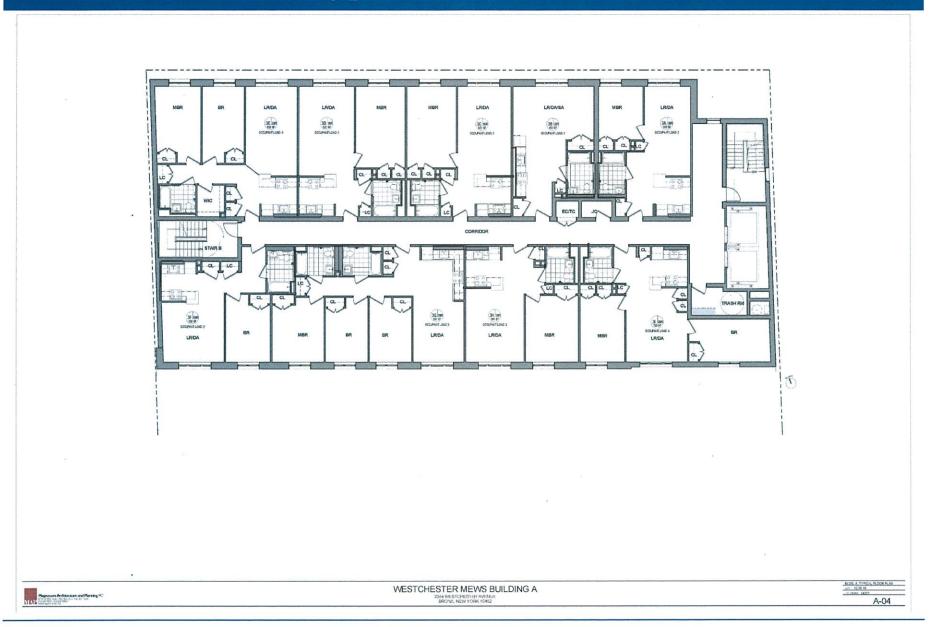
Westchester Ave – Ground Floor Plan



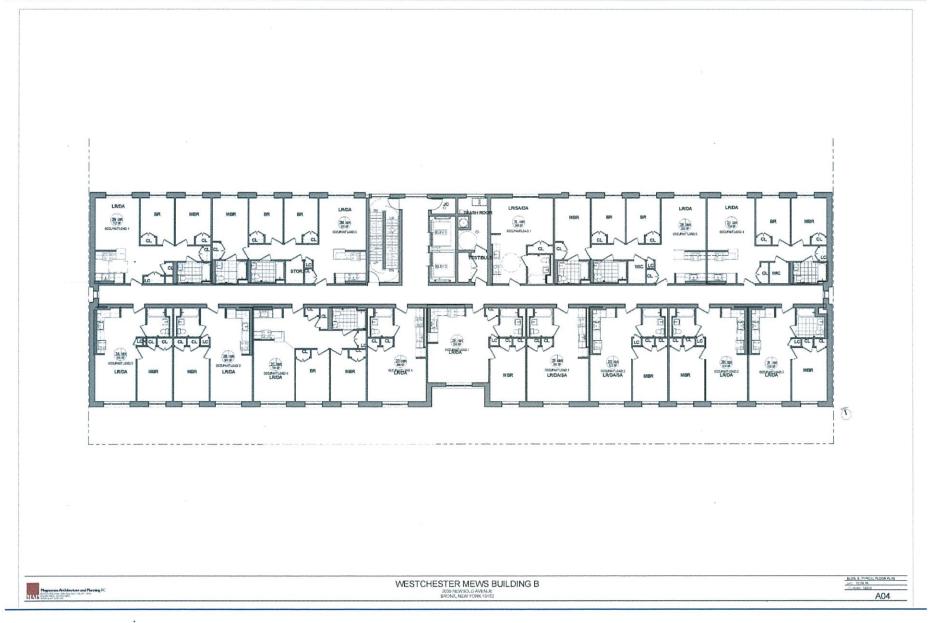
Newbold Ave- Ground Floor Plan



Westchester Ave – Typical Floor Plan



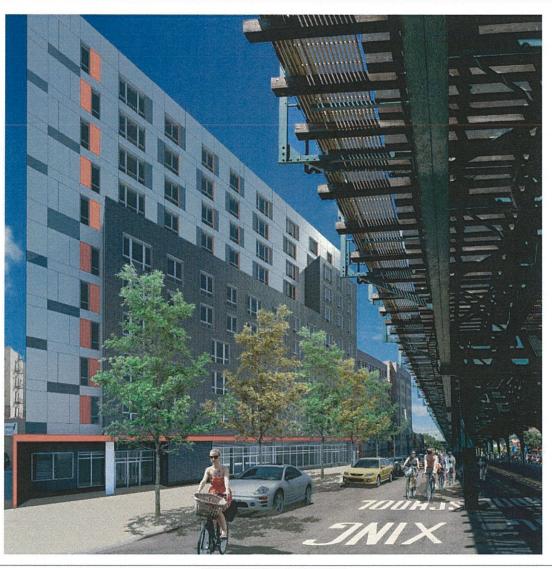
Newbold Ave – Typical Floor Plan



Site Rendering



Westchester Ave – Rendering



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Newbold Ave – Rendering



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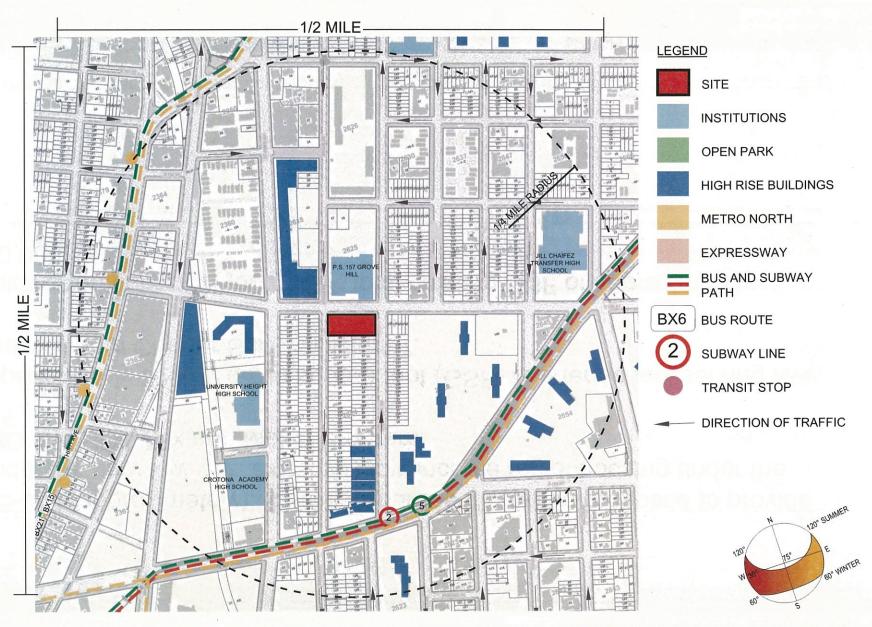
- <u>Developer:</u> Phipps Houses: Developer, owner, and manager of over 7,600 affordable housing units, approx. 2,000 of which are in the Melrose vicinity, located in Bronx Community Boards 1 and 3.
- Architect: Curtis + Ginsberg, experienced designer of affordable housing and community facility spaces.
- Contractor: Experienced affordable housing general contractor will be selected by competitive process.
- Property Manager: Phipps Houses Services, Inc. (PHSI), which manages over 7,600 apartments in New York City.
- Charter School Developer: Civic Builders, whose 21 schools serve over 11,000 students with over 1 million square feet of real estate developed and over \$500M invested in the communities they serve.



175-unit (approximately), 12-story apartment building proposed to provide moderate, very low, and extremely low income rental housing under the HPD and HDC Mix and Match Program.

- Approximately 31,400 gross square foot (GSF) charter school serving K-4 students from Charter School District 7.
- Building footprint of 22,000 GSF; total building GSF of approximately 210,000.





Area Context Plan



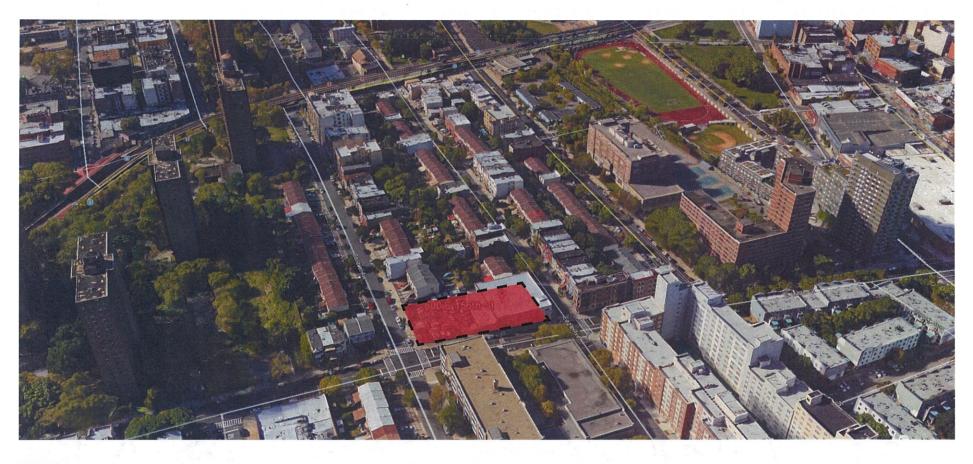


Presentation: May 02, 2017

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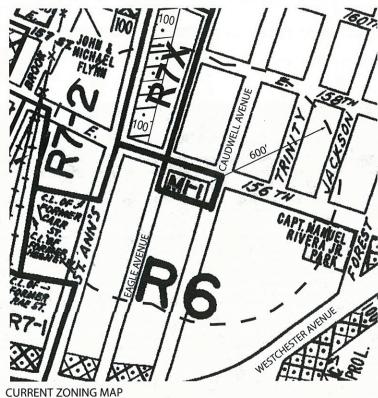
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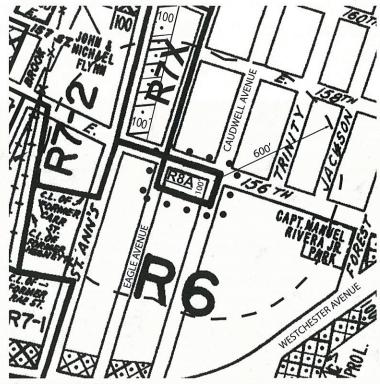




C1-2 C1-3 C1-4 C1-5

Proposed zoning map change: M1-1 to R8A

Proposed zoning text change: Designation of Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Area with Program Option 1



PROPOSED ZONING MAP Rezoning M1-1 to R8A

: AREA OF REZONING

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Zoning Change





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Street Level View at E. 156th St.



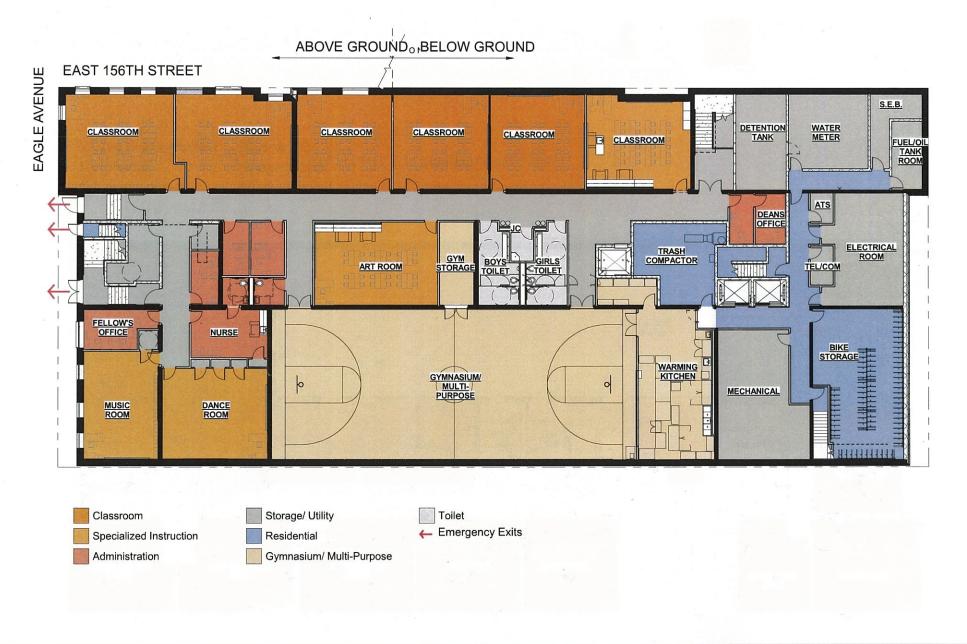


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Ground (Upper Level) Plan





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Street Level along Cauldwell Ave.





Presentation: May 02, 2017

- Total Development Cost (TDC) estimated at \$86.6 million, including construction contract of \$59.4 million.
- Sustainable Design: Enterprise Green Communities certification, high energy efficiency, solar power.
- Construction employment opportunities overseen by general contractor; property maintenance and school employment overseen by Phipps and charter school. All parties will seek to utilize minority and women-owned businesses and hire local residents.



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