



Community Board Ten

621 - 86 Street • Brooklyn, N.Y. 11209
(718) 745-6827 • Fax (718) 836-2447
Communitybd10@nyc.rr.com

MARY ANN WALSH
Vice Chairperson
ELEANOR PETTY
Secretary
BRIAN KIERAN
Treasurer

DEAN RASINYA
Chairperson

JOSEPHINE BECKMANN
District Manager

June 19, 2007

Hon. Simcha Felder
New York City Council Member
Chair of Government Operations Committee
4424 16th Avenue, 2nd Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11204

Dear Council Member Felder:

At a duly publicized meeting of Community Board Ten held on Monday, June 18, 2007, members voted overwhelmingly in support of Int. 262/2006, Int. 263/2006 scheduled for the June 21, 2007 New York City Council's Government Operations Committee meeting.

Enclosed please find Community Board Ten's Zoning and Land Use Committee (ZALUC) report delivered to the full Board on Monday, June 18th, 2007. ZALUC considered the aforementioned resolutions, all of which in the opinion of the ZALUC, increase public participation and oversight over zoning related applications.

The ZALUC report outlines Community Board Ten's support of Intro 262/2006 BSA Voting Amendments requiring all variance and special permit decisions by BSA be made by a two-thirds majority of the quorum present and voting; and Intro 263/2006 BSA Membership Expansion Amendments, expanding the membership of the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) to thirteen members, with eight additional members to be appointed, one each, by the Borough Presidents, Public Advocate, Comptroller and City Council.

Community Board Ten Members would like to take this opportunity to commend your Committee for considering these pieces of legislation and ask that you keep us apprised of their status.

Sincerely,

Dean Rasinya
Chairperson

Cc: Hon. Tony Avella
Hon. Vincent Gentile

MARTY MARKOWITZ, BOROUGH PRESIDENT



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District Manager

June 19, 2007

Hon. Melinda Katz
New York City Council Member
Chair of Land Use Committee
104-01 Metropolitan Avenue
Forest Hills, NY 11375

Dear Council Member Katz:

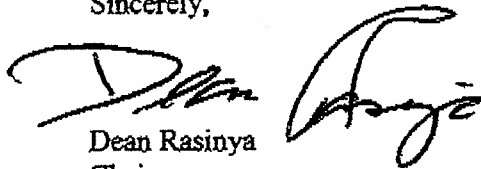
At a duly publicized meeting of Community Board Ten held on Monday, June 18, 2007, members voted overwhelmingly in support Intro 261/2006 that was calendared for July 24th, 2007 before the Land Use/Zoning and Franchises Committee.

Enclosed please find Community Board Ten's Zoning and Land Use Committee (ZALUC) report delivered to the full Board on Monday, June 18th, 2007. ZALUC considered the aforementioned resolutions, all of which in the opinion of the ZALUC, increase public participation and oversight over zoning related applications.

The ZALUC report outlines Community Board Ten's support of Intro 261/2006 Council Review of BSA Appeals that would create a "Council Review" appeals process of certain decisions (variances and special permits) rendered by the Board of Standards and Appeals.

Community Board Ten Members would like to take this opportunity to commend your Committee for considering these pieces of legislation and ask that you keep us apprised of their status.

Sincerely,



Dean Rasinya
Chairperson

Cc: Hon. Tony Avella
Hon. Vincent Gentile

MARTY MARKOWITZ, BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ZONING AND LAND USE COMMITTEE REPORT
JUNE 13, 2007

Community Board 10 and ZALUC met in quorum at P.S. 69 located at 6302 – 9th Avenue to consider several matters as follows:

New York City Council Resolutions Intro. No. 261, Intro. No. 262, and Intro. No. 263

ZALUC considered three resolutions regarding land use and zoning procedures, all of which in the opinion of the ZALUC, increase public participation and oversight over zoning related applications and are thus recommended by the Committee.

Intro. No. 261

This would create a "Council Review" appeals process of certain decisions (variances and special permits) rendered by the Board of Standards and Appeals. This legislation has support throughout the City including: civic groups, community boards and the New York City Central Labor Council.

Int. No 262

This bill requires that all variance and special permit decisions by BSA be made by a two-thirds majority of the quorum present and voting.

Int. No. 263

This bill will expand the membership of the Board of Standards and Appeals ("BSA") to thirteen (13) members, with the eight (8) additional members to be appointed, one each, by the Borough Presidents, Public Advocate, Comptroller and City Council.

The Committee unanimously passed a motion to support all three (3) measures, noting that CB 10 had generally indicated the favorability of passing measures that offered more oversight and opportunity for public participation in the past several years.

Respectfully submitted,



Joanne Seminara
Chairperson, Zoning & Land Use
Committee



(718) 225-1054
FAX (718) 225-4514

email: QN11@cb.nyc.gov
website: www.cb11.org

Community Board No. 11

46-21 Little Neck Parkway, Little Neck, New York 11362

Steven Newman
Chair

Susan Seinfeld
District Manager

Helen Marshall, President
Borough of Queens

Karen Koslowitz, Deputy Borough President
and Director of Community Boards

June 5, 2007

Hon. Simcha Felder
Government Operations Chair
The Council
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

RE: Int. 262/2006 – BSA Voting Amendments

Sponsors: Avella (Author), Brewer, Foster, Gentile, Jackson, Liu, Mark-Viverito,
Martinez, McMahon, Nelson, Oddo, Palma, Recchia, Reyna, Stewart, Weprin

Dear ~~Councilman~~ ^{Simcha} Felder:

Please be advised that Community Board 11 supports the above referenced proposed legislation which will require that all variance and special permit decisions by BSA be made by a two-thirds majority of the quorum present and voting.

This bill would create a Council review process on land use decisions and further restrain the power of the BSA when issuing variances and special permits which directly impact on the community.

We urge the Government Operations Committee to vote affirmatively so that this important bill can become a local law.

Sincerely,

Steven Newman
Chair

lv

cc: Hon. Tony Avella

204-05 43 Avenue
Bayside, NY 11361-2617
June 20, 2007

Council Member Tony Avella
38-50 Bell Blvd., Suite C
Bayside, NY 11361

Dear Council Member Avella:

I understand that you are holding a hearing on June 21, 2007, at 1 PM at City Hall dealing with proposed legislation that would reform the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA). I am unable to appear at that hearing to testify, however, I would like to convey my opinions to you and the other council members at the hearing.

This legislation which you are sponsoring will go a long way in bringing much needed change to the BSA and make it more responsive to the public's wishes. The proposed legislation includes:

Intro 261/2006 City Council Review of Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) This bill would create an appeals process through the City Council of certain decisions (variances and special permits) rendered by the BSA.

Intro 262/2006 BSA Voting Amendments This bill will require that all variance and special permit decisions by BSA be made by a two-thirds majority of the quorum present and voting.

Intro 263/2006 BSA Membership Expansion Amendments This bill will expand the membership of the BSA from five to thirteen giving the borough presidents, the Public Advocate, the Comptroller and the City Council an opportunity to have representation on that body, thereby making it more accountable to the electorate.

Being an active member of a civic association and a community board, I often testify at BSA hearings regarding proposed variances and the like. From what I have noticed, the BSA wields a great deal of power over these proposals. Often, the BSA votes against the wishes of the community board and the borough president. There definitely needs to be a check on BSA decisions to ensure that they reflect the wishes of the residents of this city and these three pieces of legislation will go a long way toward doing that. I urge the City Council to enact this legislation as soon as possible that will reform the Board of Standards and Appeals. It is long overdue.

Sincerely,
Henry Euler



Robert Furman, Chair
***Linda Eskenas**
Vice Chair - Staten Island
 Northshore Waterfront Greenbelt
 Preservation League of S. I.
Daniel McCalla, Vice Chair - Bklyn
 Fort Greene Association
Andrea Crawford, Esq.,
Vice Chair - Queens
 Kew Gardens Improvement Assn.
Linda Mandell, Treasurer
 Waldheim Neighborhood Association
Vincent J. Favorito, Esq.,
Corporate Secretary
 Brooklyn Community Board Six
Kim Kindya, Recording Secy
 Comet (Queens)
***Mitchell Grubler, Asst Rec Secy**
 Chair, Queens Preservation Council
Stanley Cogan, Chman Emeritus
 Queens Borough Historian
DIRECTORS
Neil Cohen, R.A.
 Bay Ridge Community Council
James Driscoll, President
 Queens Historical Society
Judith Guttman, President
 Parkway Village Historical Society
***Joseph Hellmann**
 Douglaston Civic Association, Inc.
Michael Perlman
 Rego-Forest Preservation Council
Raul Rothblatt
 Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn
Salvatore "Buddy" Scotto
 Carroll Gardens Association
Monica Stabin
 Concerned Citizens Grnwd Hts
James Trent
 President, Qns Cnty Farm Mus.
***ORGANIZATIONAL DIRECTORS**
***Ed & Kathy Jaworski**
 Madison-Marine Civic Assn.
***Jeffrey Saunders**
 Jackson Heights Garden City Soc.
MEMBERS
Steven Bieber
 Marine Park Civic Association
Hannah Bloch
 S. Williamsburg Historical Society
Margaret Elwert
 Prospect Heights Nbrhd Devel Cncl
Aline Euler
 Bayside Historical Society
Steve Levine, Architect
Mary Mattner
 Carroll Gardens Nbrhd Assn.
Michele Moschides
 Gravesend Preservation
Bernadette Morrissey
Antoinette Vasile, Vice-Pres.
 Madison-Marine Civic Assn.
Anna Porter
 Preservation League of S. I.
William Self
 Kew Gardens Economic Pres Coal
Judy Shack
Patricia Sherwood
 Parkway Village Historical Soc.
Ron Schweiger
 Brooklyn Borough Historian
*Organizational Affiliations for
 Identification Only*
ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS
***Steve Barrison, Esq. Pres., BIG**
***Barbara Berardelli, Secretary**
 Shpshead Bay/Plumb Bch Civic Assn
***Joy Chatel**
 Duffield St. Block Association
***Henry Euler, Auburndale Imp. Assn.**
***Steven Kaye**
 South Canarsie Civic Association
***John Manzola**
 Marine Pk Civic Assn.

**FOUR BOROUGH
 NEIGHBORHOOD
 PRESERVATION
 ALLIANCE
 CORPORATION**



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Bobfurman1@juno.com
furman.bob@gmail.com

Statement of Robert Furman in favor of Ints. 262-263

My name is Robert Furman and I am Chairman of the Four Borough Neighborhood Preservation Alliance Corporation. We were founded to deal with issues of overdevelopment in the City's "other boroughs."

Enactment of these two bills will begin the process of upsetting the "Supermayor" system we have had since the enactment of the 1991 Charter Revision.

The charter revision was made necessary by the Supreme Court's finding that the voting system at the Board of Estimate (one vote per borough regardless of population) did not conform to the "one person, one vote" rule. But by abolishing the Board and transferring too many of its functions to the Mayor rather than the Council, and the other city officials, an imbalance between the supposedly co-equal branches of our local government has been created which has only been aggravated by term limits and the current interpretation of the state law requiring a referendum if a Mayor's power is diminished.

Appointments to the Board of Standards and Appeals were formerly made by the Mayor and the borough presidents. The beeps' appointment power was eradicated by the new charter and Int. 263 would redress that by giving each borough a member named by the person who best knows each borough's profile and interests, along with the other two citywide officials and, perhaps mostly importantly, the Council. This would provide for more variation of views and public input into BSA's decisions.

Intro. 262 requires land use decisions to be made by a two thirds majority of the BSA, rather than a simple one. While BSA's functioning has been improved over the last few years because of a positive response by both the Mayor and Board staff and members to loud expressions of discontent, this is a temporary phenomenon likely to disappear with the passage of time and the appointment of new staff and members.

Requiring a super-majority would require that important decisions which amount to an unintentional rezoning of the subject communities and are often cited as precedents (although they lack that legal status) by developers' advocates, would be made by a consensus of most of the Board's members, increasing the likelihood that they would reflect the public interest rather than a mere narrow reading of the law.

The Four Borough Alliance is proud to have suggested these changes to the law and that Councilmember Avella has seen fit to frame them into law and strongly support their enactment.

appeared Councilmen weeks & weeks and no efforts -

For the past 2 years I have attended at least 15 hearings at the BSA ~~as~~ a homeowner and member of the Madison Marine Homecrest Civic Association - 9⁰ hearings directly affecting my houses and blocks - regarding Zoning Resolution 73-622 bulk extensions on 1 or 2 family homes - law in only 2 1/2 community ~~the~~ boards in NYC. This law is changing the character of our neighbors.

So, I have seen them in action. I can tell you the BSA has changed personnel and the new group has been more responsive to civics, but has never denied a permit objected to by our civic groups, MMHC. There have been only modifications in plans, even though many neighbors came in large numbers to object. From my point of view, the problem lies also in the laws that govern the BSA. - The laws that come from the City Council. So, in reforming the BSA, please keep this in mind - your responsibility.

Every time we object to the Z.R 73-622 special permit, we are told by BSA to go back to City Planning, City Council and our Community Bd 15 to effect change. So, part of the BSA's problem is the nature of the laws before them. Your laws need to protect all parties involved with clear language and fairness. Laws coming from your body need to address issues affecting all citizens not just those with special

Submitted by Kathy Jaworski - 1821 E 28th St. 11229

Four Borough Neighborhood Preservation Alliance Corporation
Daniel McCalla
419 Clermont Avenue
Brooklyn New York 11238
718-623-8345/646-326-3820

City Councilmen Simcha Felder
Chairmen of Committee on Government Operations
City Hall
New York 10001

June 21st 2007

Honorable Chairmen Felder

Good morning my name is Daniel McCalla from Fort Green Brooklyn New York, and I am a member of the Four Borough Neighborhood Preservation Alliance . I am here to testify in support of Intro 262 and Intro 263. The Board of Standards and Appeals is a little known city agency to “Joe Blow” citizens such as myself and honestly before the last few years I never knew where to find them.

Intro 262 to require a two thirds majority vote for decisions regarding zoning variances and special permits, A great idea that is long overdue and hopefully with city council help can become possible. This legislation addresses specific applications intended to allow a developer or property owner to Override zoning districts requirements due to financial issues. In theory variances and special permits are suppose to be for true hardship cases of the applicant a landowners.

However during the last two mayoral administrations, Hit and Run developers who are trying to build projects bigger than a number Contextual Zoning application undertaken by the Department of City Planning would allow. Have used unscrupulous construction practices such as construction at night to get a certain amount of foundation in accomplished, so they can carry out their intent to go the Board of Standards and Appeals to be granted a zoning variance. This numerous practice has put the BSA in the position of rewarding “Bad Behavior”.

With a two thirds majority hopefully there will be more encouragement to allow commissioners to truly address whether an application meets the specific requirements of the zoning resolution for granting variances. Unfortunately the Board of Standards and Appeals has become a means for developers to change the characters of neighborhoods slowly but surely, Making the New York City Zoning resolution almost unenforceable.

Intro 263 which will add eight members to the Board of Standard and Appeals to be appointed by the Borough Presidents, The Public Advocate, The City Council and The City Controller, will hopefully create necessary oversight regarding the Board Of Standard and Appeals powers to over ride zoning. The Current Structure of the BSA allows the above parties to testify or make their opinions known to the BSA. However there is a question of how much weight it matters to the staff of the Board of Standard and Appeals. I know some people would say "What kind of maniac would want to put representatives of the Borough Presidents" on the BSA. However the City Charter has a similar structure in place with the Industrial Development Agency Board or the IDA which makes decisions on development funds. Current BSA members are appointed by the Mayor, and very few have ever been allowed to apply for the job.

In closing Mister Chairmen I just want to continue my support for Intros 262 and 263, and I hope efforts can be made to enacts these reforms

Thank you

Daniel McCalla

The Four Borough Neighborhood Preservation Alliance Corporation

Vice Chairmen for Brooklyn

Chairmen of State and City Legislation Committee.

Statement of Isaac Sasson in support of legislations 262/2006 and 263/2006

Good Afternoon,

My name is Isaac Sasson. I am the president of the Holly Civic Association and the Skyline Tenants Association in Flushing and a member of Community Board 7. I am here to give my full support for the 2 legislations sponsored by Tony Avella, my Councilmember John Liu, and many of you. Let me briefly give just 3 examples to illustrate why the legislations are necessary.

1. The landlord of my high-rise rent-stabilized building had submitted a 10-year renewal variance for the use of part of the underground garage parking lot to rent out to non-tenants. When the request ^{came} to Community Board 7 in Queens, our Tenant Association submitted proof that the landlord violated stipulations of the previous various renewal, unilaterally and illegally decontrolled the entire garage, and a number of other issues. The CB7 committee rejected the application, and at the full CB7 hearing, neither the landlord nor his attorney from the Sheldon Lobel law firm even bother to show up for the hearing. His application was unanimously rejected, as did the Borough President. To its discredit, BSA nonetheless approved the variance renewal.
2. A church in our neighborhood bought a beautiful family home, razed it and converted it to a parking lot. When they were cited by the Building Department for this, they applied for a variance to make this retro-actively legal. Even though the CB7 committee, the full Community Board and the Borough President turned them down, BSA approved the variance. The ~~law~~ firm of Sid Davidoff represented the applicant.
3. More recently, a case where the applicant wanted a special permit to operate a spa in an M1 zone was turned down by Community Board 7, with Councilmember Avella and State Senator Frank Padavan both speaking out in opposition. Yet, BSA nonetheless approved the application.

There are just 3 examples, and of course there are many, many more. It is very frustrating for community-active people to work very hard to do what's good for their areas, only to see a non-elected agency trump all their hard work and totally disregard the will of the people. Law firms or architects that are well-connected, but not the people, always seem to get the ear of BSA. The final decisions on granting variances should be left to our elected officials, not to an appointed group. We did not elect the BSA members, but we elected you. My Tenant Association and my Civic Association beg you to act on the 2 legislations, as well as on 261/2006, due for a July 24 hearing, *which creates a "council" review process.*

Thank you

Isaac Sasson
43-70 Kissena Blvd., apt. 14-H
Flushing, NY 11355
June 21, 2007
718-461-9338

New York Industrial Retention Network

11 Park Place, Suite 914 New York, NY 10007
Tel 212 404-6990 ♦ Fax 212 404-6999 ♦ www.nyirn.org



Governmental Operations Committee Hearing June 21, 2007 In Favor of Int. 262 & 263 BSA Voting Amendments & Membership Expansion

Good afternoon. My name Michael Freedman-Schnapp and I am the Senior Policy Associate for the New York Industrial Retention Network. NYIRN is a citywide economic development organization that works with manufacturers to promote a diverse economy to provide employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for all New Yorkers. We work with about 400 companies each year, at least half of whom have real estate and relocation issues.

NYIRN strongly supports Int. 262 and 263 and urges the Council to pass these important reforms of the Board of Standards and Appeals.

To protect well-paying manufacturing jobs and to reap the job-creation potential from increased sustainable development, we must reserve space for industry in the city. The BSA has been extremely lenient in granting of variances. That leniency undermines the effectiveness of zoning regulations, community empowerment and job retention.

In the past, zoning variances granted by the BSA have had dramatic, cumulative effects, greasing the skids for wholesale changes of neighborhoods. Conversions approved by the BSA allowed the displacement of light industrial jobs in favor of high-end residential uses, dramatically changing neighborhoods. For example, the 2005 rezoning of Northside Williamsburg to allow unlimited residential conversions was made much easier by the fact that the BSA had granted dozens of residential variances in that neighborhood over the years.

While the adaptive re-use of buildings is a necessary and inevitable part of the city's growth and development, variances should be granted with the overall economic consequences of land use changes in mind.

Viable light industrial businesses, such as printers, bakers, specialty food manufacturers, metalworkers and furniture shops are leaving the city because there is a severe lack of affordable industrial space. The city's Industrial Business Zones are full to capacity—many have lower vacancy rates than the office market in Midtown.

The manufacturing jobs these businesses create are an important and necessary part of New York's economic health; approximately 230,000 industrial jobs currently exist in the City, about half of which are in manufacturing. Two-thirds of the people employed in manufacturing are immigrants and 80% are people of color.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that as a result of the Mayor's January 2005 industrial policy, the BSA has taken a much closer look at variances that propose to convert industrial buildings to residential use in certain areas. Recently, the first

residential variance applied for in an Industrial Business Zone, a 12,000 sf. lot on Krier Place in East New York, was withdrawn and is now up for sale to industrial users. And new commissioners with city planning experience on the board offer a greater perspective on the land use changes that variances can cause.

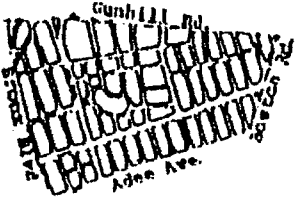
Despite these positive developments, the BSA could revert back to its former practices. Zoning, and land use procedures in general, should protect neighborhood character, accommodate growth and meet community needs. Therefore, decisions of the BSA should be made by a two-thirds majority and be made by commissioners appointed by a range of elected officials.

As the City seeks to accommodate our projected population of 9 million, we will have to make some tough planning and land use decisions. It is NYIRN's hope that the BSA will make their decisions with the long-term consequences in mind, so that the City can create more sustainable and equitable communities.

Thank you for the chance to testify on this important legislation.

OLINVILLE TAXPAYERS & CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.653 ROSEWOOD STREET
BRONX, NY 10467

June 15, 2007



Attention: Councilman S. Felder

Int. 263/2006 BSA Membership Expansion
Amendments

Committee: Government Operations. Hearing: June 21st.

The Olmville Taxpayers & Civic Association (OTCA) of the Bronx support this bill that will increase the membership of the BSA to 13 members. This bill will provide an opportunity for city-wide representation, diversity, and a voice of the people of New York City.

Ms Lilly Pappas 718-549-8749

cc: Councilman: G. Oliver Koppell

Councilman Larry Seabrook

"WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY"

Wakefield Taxpayers & Civic League, Inc.

Founded 1913

Incorporated 1931

MEETINGS: THIRD THURSDAY OF: FEBRUARY, APRIL, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, AND NOVEMBER

Mary V. Lauro
President

4330 Matilda Avenue
Bronx, New York 10466

Ann D. Morrison
1st Vice-president

TEL: 718 324 8564
FAX: 718 324 6395

Marcella Sullivan
2nd Vice-president

June 10, 2007

Andy Lalchandani
3rd Vice-president

Councilman Tony Avella
Chairperson
Committee Land Use/Zoning and Franchises
38-50 Bell Blvd Suite C
Bayside, New York 11361

William J. Ludwig
Corresponding Secretary

Gracie Watson
Recording Secretary

Carlynn J. Vitale
Treasurer

RE: Intro 261/2006.

Bisram Bhagan
Sargent-at-arms

Dear Councilman Avella:

Joseph McGee
Trustee

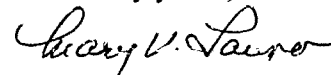
We strongly support the above measure.

Dulles Rakal
Trustee

Too often the Board of Standards and Appeals appears to act in a manner injurious to a community, siding with those who have no interest in its well being. An appeals process such as is proposed by Councilman Avella in Intro 261/2006 would increase community confidence that its needs and interests are being considered.

We note here that we also support Intro 262/2006 and 263/2006. Together with the above, the BSA would become more transparent and accountable to the citizens it should be serving.

Sincerely yours,



Mary V. Lauro
President



Westmoreland Association, Inc.

ORGANIZED 1917 & INCORPORATED 1924
251-31 42nd Avenue, Little Neck, NY 11363
718-224-7256

**Statement of Walter Mugdan,
President, Westmoreland Association
at a New York City Council Hearing on Proposed Amendments
Concerning the Bureau of Standards and Appeals
June 21, 2007**

Walter Mugdan
President
Sheldon Rosenblum
Vice President
Gary Savage
Treasurer
Charles Manna
Secretary

DIRECTORS
Kathleen Beckett
John Costanza
Thomas Dent
Franklin T. Lloyd
Peter Reinharz
Robert Timmerman
Philip Toscano

The Westmoreland Association, Inc., is a not-for-profit homeowners' association representing the interests of residents in the Westmoreland area of Little Neck, Queens, New York. The area is bounded generally by Northern Boulevard on the south, the Long Island Rail Road on the north, Little Neck Parkway on the west, and Nassau Road on the east. (The Westmoreland development also includes a number of homes located in Great Neck, Nassau County, New York.)

The Westmoreland area was developed starting in 1906 by the Rickert-Finlay Company, (RF) which subdivided the area into blocks and lots. As each lot or group of lots was sold, a number restrictive covenants was included in the deed which would thereafter run with the land. At the present time, some 330 homes are in the Westmoreland area

The Westmoreland Association enthusiastically supports Int. 262/2006 and 263/2006 by Council Members Avella, *et al.* These are proposed amendments to the rules governing the New York City Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA).

It has been the sad experience of the Westmoreland Association that the BSA has, historically, been all too willing to grant the requests of developers for variances from the City's zoning requirements. The granting of a variances should be the rare exception, and not the common outcome of a BSA proceeding.

The above-referenced amendments would (a) require a two thirds majority of the BSA quorum present and voting to approve a variance, and (b) expand the BSA membership to include additional members appointed by the Borough Presidents, the Public Advocate, the Comptroller and the City Council. We believe these amendments will significantly assist homeowners and homeowners' associations such as the Westmoreland Association in ensuring that legally applicable zoning rules are faithfully observed, and that the character of neighborhoods protected by those rules is better maintained.

Visit us on the Web at LittleNeck.net/Westmoreland/

10584 Flattards 6th Street

Brooklyn New York 11236

June 9, 2007

Dear Commissioner Grelka,

This is to support you in your endeavor to pass the full and realistic moratorium in your letter to measure delinquency of youth in your City, Association.

We are well aware of the need for legislation

& allow these quality of life issues which will save lives. While during, we have

belatedly pass STOP signs that are hidden

by overgrown tree growth. We have also,

for many years, been asking for STOP

signs on East 108th Street from Flattards 1st

Street to Deenot Avenue; it is the only

North-South strip in our community without

STOP signs.

There is a dire need to increase the

Board of Directors and Officers, whose abuse

of resources and special permits has gradually

changed the character of our community and

often rendered areas in Brooklyn,

as a whole Area II rotten, we have

seen the change in our East State Veterans

Test exemption. Years ago, the Veterans exemption

was a true exemption. Now a police tax

was levied on the exemption, and the

→

percentage has increased every year.

Though Canaan has been divided into 3 Councilmatic Districts, we will send letters to all to support you in your efforts.

Thank you.

Sincerely
Jerry and Seymour Weiner

CC: Councilman Fidler - our councilman
Councilman Barron
Councilman Stewart

The North Shore Waterfront Conservancy of Staten Island, Inc.

Fax Cover Sheet

June 18, 2007


To: Councilman Tony Avella
19th District North East Queens
Fax: (718) 747-3105

Reference: Board of Standard and Appeals Hearings for Int. 262/2006 BSA Voting Amendments, Committee: Gov't Operations, Int. 263/2006- BSA Membership Expansion Amendments – Committee: Gov't Operations and Int. 261/2006 Council Review of BSA Appeals – Committee: Land Use/Zoning and Franchises

Dear Councilman Avella:

Whether or not we are able to attend any of these hearings we at least wanted our testimony on record in regard to the BSA. I sincerely hope that it helps.

Respectfully,


Beryl A. Thurman, President

NSWC

www.nswcsi.org

nswcsibt@aol.com

Total number of pages 2



The North Shore Waterfront Conservancy of Staten Island, Inc.
P.O. Box 140502
Staten Island, New York 10314

June 18, 2007

Councilman Tony Avella
19th District North East Queens
38-50 Bell Boulevard, Suite C
Bayside, NY. 11361

Dear Councilman Avella:

On behalf of the members of the North Shore Waterfront Conservancy of Staten Island, Inc. we would like to thank you and the other City Council members for allowing us to participate in these hearings regarding the Board of Standards and Appeals. We are thrilled that City Council is finally requiring this board to be held accountable for its actions. And has established procedures that will require them to be present and voting by a two-thirds majority of the quorum on any decision that will impact a community.

Based on their past decisions it was apparent that they were unfamiliar with the areas and the existing problems of those areas as they approved business variances and permits. Creating in most cases an over saturation of deplorable conditions for residents.

For the north shore of Staten Island from St. George to Arlington the over saturation took the form in various pollutant industries that have lead to poor air quality for nearby residents. Because The Board of Standard and Appeals never kept a map identifying the actual locations of the existing pollutant businesses along with those that they were providing variances and permits for they had no idea that they were helping to create an Environmental Justice situation that we are still fighting with today.

They also helped to contribute to the over saturation of the north shore of Staten Island with social services that deal with homelessness and substance abuse. In this instance clustering a group of people in the same economic and social situation. Hence denying the diversity of being in a mixed income environment that would allow residents to have certain social and economic benefits that expendable income can bring. In other words putting these particular types of social services mentioned above in under served low-to-low middle-income communities and reducing viable growth potential if through no other reason than perception.

We sincerely hope that in having a City Council Review of BSA Appeals it will stop the disparity that these communities have been traditionally subject to.

Once again on behalf of the members of NSWC we would like to thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Beryl A. Thurman, President

