



**BUILDING &
CONSTRUCTION
TRADES COUNCIL
OF GREATER NEW YORK**

GARY LaBARBERA
PRESIDENT

AFFILIATED WITH THE
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT
OF WASHINGTON, DC
*** NABTU ***
NABTU BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL
A FEDERAL AFFILIATION OF LOCAL UNIONS AND CONFEDERATION
OF INDUSTRIAL UNION OF AMERICA

TESTIMONY
On behalf
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL OF GREATER NEW YORK AND
VICINITY
In Support of the 970 Franklin Project
October 16, 2024

I am Gary LaBarbera, President of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York & Vicinity. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of the 970 Franklin Avenue Project.

The Building and Construction Trades Council is an organization of local building and construction trade unions that are affiliated with 15 International Unions in the North American Building Trades Union. Our local union affiliates represent approximately 100,000 union construction workers. The Building Trades mission is to raise the standard of living for all workers, to advocate for safe work conditions and to collectively advance working conditions for our affiliates' members, as well as all workers in New York City.

The 970 Franklin Avenue project is proposing to rezone 962-972 Franklin Avenue in the Crown heights neighborhood of Brooklyn to create a fourteen (14) story, mixed-income residential development in the neighborhood that will include approximately units dedicated to workforce and affordable housing. This type of project must move forward given our City's housing shortage as it will create housing affordable for our City's teachers, firefighters, nurses, bus drivers and grocery clerks. Additionally, this project is anticipated to create 1,000 union construction jobs and will be financed, built, and operated with Union labor: providing well-paying jobs with family-sustaining wages and benefits to the residents of our City.

970 Franklin Avenue is an example of the type of housing projects that our City must support. It will create housing units that are affordable for working class citizens while also creating jobs with fair wages and benefits that will allow workers to be able to afford to live in this City.

We thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony in support of the 970 Franklin Avenue project.

350 WEST 31st STREET • SUITE 700 • NEW YORK, NY 10001
TEL: (212) 647-0700 • FAX: (212) 647-0705

TESTIMONY OF:

**Lowell Barton, Vice President, and Organizing Director
Laborers' Local 1010, LIUNA
For the New York City Council Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises**

October 16, 2024

Laborers' Local 1010 is the premier Paving and Road Building Union of New York City. Our members work together to build streets, bridges, and highways throughout the five boroughs of NYC. Local 1010, an affiliate of the NYS Laborers', representing 40,000 men and women across the state, is a proud affiliate of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA). It is of the utmost importance for the Laborers' Union that our members, and the communities they live, in are at the center of our advocacy.

Today, I am providing testimony to state Laborers' Local 1010's SUPPORT of the 970 Franklin Avenue project (962-972 Franklin Avenue) and the proposal to rezone 962-972 Franklin Avenue in the Crown Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn to create a mixed-income residential development dedicated to workforce and affordable housing. Important to note – this project will be built by members of the NYC Building and Construction Trades and will be financed by the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust, and that itself should be sufficient reason to support it.

At a time when inequality is at an all-time high, unions play a critical role in ensuring family-sustaining wages and benefits for workers and their families, and by that standard, building up the middle class. Unionized careers in the Building Trades not only support individual workers and their families but also stimulate the local economy. When union workers earn decent pay, they spend those earnings in their communities—on housing, groceries, healthcare, and education—creating a positive ripple effect that benefits us all.

This project is a Union BFO (Build, Finance, Operate) initiative, meaning it will be union-built, union-financed, and union-operated, **ensuring high standards and accountability throughout the process.** Residents, some of whom are our union members, were engaged in this process to have their needs and concerns heard and addressed. This project will create affordable housing options for residents and essential workers as well as generate almost 1,000 union jobs, providing stable employment opportunities and an opportunity for more residents to earn a family-sustaining wage and career in the Building and Construction Trades, all while contributing to the economic vitality of Crown Heights.

In conclusion, the impact of union construction labor extends far beyond this job site. This project has the opportunity to expand the pathway to the middle class to more NY resident and ensure safer working conditions. By investing in and supporting union labor, we invest in a more equitable and prosperous future for our communities. Thank you for this opportunity.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 970 Franklin Ave Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10-16-24

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ari Espinal

Address: _____

I represent: Building Trades of NY - behalf of Gary LaBarbera

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rowan Blaik

Address: VP for Horticulture

I represent: Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kathryn Glass

Address: Chief of Public Affairs

I represent: Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: RAWAN BLAIK

Address: _____

I represent: BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

Address: 1000 WASHINGTON AVE 11235

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jennie Encalada-Malinowski

Address: _____

I represent: Laborers' Local 1010 (LIUNA)

Address: Whitestone, NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ANDREW MONJE

Address: NYC DCC

I represent: 970 FRANKLIN

Address: _____

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**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10/16/24

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael VASTARELLI (NYC DCC)

Address: _____

I represent: 970 FRANKLIN

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10/16/24

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kevin Elkins

Address: 395 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014

I represent: NYC District Council of Carpenters

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 0161-2024 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10/16/24

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DAVID ROSENBERG

Address: [REDACTED] 10017

I represent: Applicant

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kyle Bragg

Address: _____

I represent: 970 Franklin Ave

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: WILLIAM WALLACE IV

Address: _____

I represent: CONTINUUM COMPANY

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10/16/24

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Tony Agosto

Address: _____

I represent: District Council 9

Address: 45 West 14th St. N.Y. N.Y.

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**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10/16/24

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Anthony Williams

Address: Local 79 Building

I represent: Trades

Address: _____

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