

Dear NYC Council Members:

My name is Theresa Herring, I am a descendant of Sandy Ground and I am a member of the Rossville AME Zion Church. I am also a member of the Civic Association of the Sandy Ground Area, known as CASA; and, I reside in the Sandy Ground Community. Today Council Members, I am here to ask that you support the rezoning application of the Sandy Ground Area.

Through the years, I have seen construction in the Sandy Ground Area that has not maintained the character of the community; and this has to stop!

Sandy Ground has a very rich history. Sandy Ground is the oldest surviving "Free Black" community in the United States. Sandy Ground became a gateway to freedom; and the Rossville AME Zion Church has been the beacon of this community. These church grounds were always the center of this community, until the appointment of the present church leadership.

The church structure on Bloomingdale and Clay Pit Roads was constructed in 1897 --- 113 years ago. This church should be revered not desecrated by construction engulfing it.

Sandy Ground has always been a multiethnic and multicultural community. On my street, Clay Pit Road, we have: African Americans, Italian Americans, Asian Americans, Indian Americans, Russian Americans, Christians, Jews and Muslims. We all live in peace and we all help each other. I am now beginning to hear the word racist; referring to my community. It is dangerous and not right to cry racism when you encounter obstacles because a project you support is not a good one.

My forefathers were always concerned about preserving the history of the Sandy Ground Area. The area's motto was: "Help us save our roots and trees".

Council Members, please help us save our roots and trees today. Support the presented rezoning application as filed.

Thank you,

Theresa Herring

CITY COUNCIL, LAND USE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING  
January 25, 2010

Yvonne Taylor

Mr. Comrie, Chairman, and Members of the Land Use Committee:

Thank your for this opportunity to speak in opposition to the down-zoning proposal which is before you.

My name is Yvonne Taylor, and I am a member and Trustee of the Rossville A.M.E. Zion Church ., located at 584 Blomingdale Rd. Staten Island, New York 10309.

This section of Staten Island was settled by free blacks in the early 1800's, and is considered to be the oldest settlement of African-Americans in this country which is still home to some descendents of the early settlers. I am one of seven generations of my family who have resided there.

If this down-zoning proposal were to be approved it would have a negative impact on the plan my church has to provide affordable housing for senior citizens. In the publication "Community District Needs: Fiscal Year 2008, Community Board #3. stated: "there is truly a need for senior citizen housing on the south shore". We want to fill that need.

Our plan is to build two buildings of affordable senior citizen housing, for those who are 62yrs. or older, on property which we own. 50% of the units would be set aside for South Shore, S.I. residents.

This process began more than five years ago. We explored the possibility of development, entered into an agreement with a developer who had built several developments of this nature, and we proceeded from there to do all that was required to do in order to go forward with this development. Since we were building "as of right" we were confident that the process would run smoothly, but we soon discovered that what should have been a smooth ride became a rocky, bumpy, journey.

We have met obstacles along the way, not due to either our own or the developer's failure to adhere to the requirements and regulations, but because of bureaucratic and Governmental hurdles we had to navigate. Initially we thought we had the support of our elected officials. In 2005, according to and article in the S.I Advance, then Councilman Lanza stated that he would back up-zoning in his district that would lead to the building of affordable senior housing. When we sought additional funding to downsize our development, we were told by him that there was a good possibility he would be able to secure that funding for us. This funding never materialized, and we are here today because State Senator Lanza has submitted this down-zoning application.

When our application finally reached the Office of City Planning, after years of delay, it was not given final approval because they required another archaeological study to be conducted, after which it will have to be approved by the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

In addition, we have encountered community opposition unparalleled in my lifetime, or I would venture to say that those early settlers did not meet with this level of descent when they arrived here.

I ask you, members of this committee to seriously consider voting to deny the approval of this down-zoning application.

Thank you for considering this request.

It has been the mission of our church, since it was founded 159 yrs. ago to serve the needs of those in need  
This affordable senior housing development will serve those in need

Yvonne Taylor

Mr. Comrie, Chairman and members of the land use committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in opposition to the down-zoning Proposal before you.

My name is Elmore Taylor and I am a member of the Rossville African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church located at 584 Bloomingdale Road Staten Island, New York.10309.

Upon deciding to build in the area , we applied for tax exemption (501 c 3) and received same. Then, we applied to the NYC real estate tax for exemption and was turned down because there was nothing on our vacant land. Since a need for for Senior housing in the area , which was expressed by C.B. 3, the church met and voted to build senior housing. This was approved by the total membership.

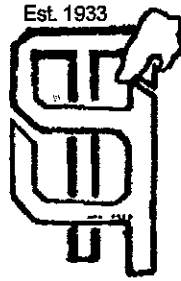
We retained a developer and he put things in motion to build. After a period of Time it was learned that State Senator Andrew Lanza had submitted a down-zoning Application to down-zone the area in which the building was to be done.

We respectfully request that you disapprove the down-zoning as it is written in his Application.

WE HAVE A SCHOOL IN THE CHURCH (PUBLIC SCHOOL)  
A.A. MEETS THERE

# Staten Island Taxpayers' Association

65 Veith Place  
Staten Island, NY 10312  
(718) 984-8936  
Email SITAINC@aol.com



Dee Vandenburg  
President  
Alice Ruch  
General Vice-President  
Linda Barbato  
South Shore Vice-President  
Joe Valentin  
Beryl Thurman  
North Shore Vice-Presidents

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Kristen Sorge  
Treasurer

Artie Dennis  
Recording Secretary

Dennis Dell'Angelo  
Land Use-Zoning Coordinator

Tuesday, January 26th, 2010

Re: Subcommittee on Zoning & Franchises Cal # T-2010-0037  
Sandy Ground Rezoning DCP#C090042ZMR & 09DCR011R

To: Chairman M.S.Weprin & Council Committee Members:

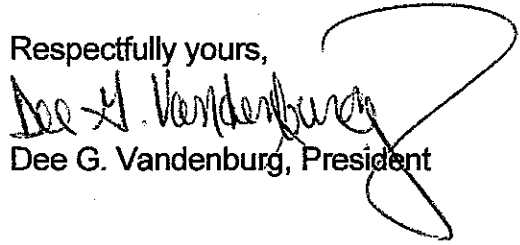
Staten Island, often referred to as the "Forgotten Borough" is sorely lacking in infrastructure to support high density developments. Many areas, including the Sandy Ground Area lack even sanitary sewers. Not to mention storm sewers. The two (2) Sewer Treatment Plants that we have are now past their 35 year life span. According to NYS DEC SPEDES permits the Port Richmond and Oakwood Beach facilities are over and close to capacity respectively.

The City of New York has approximately 15 PRIVATE SEWERAGE PUMPING STATIONS, about 12 of those are in Staten Island and the majority of them are in this area. These are paid for by the homeowners, through HOA fees at Con Ed Commercial rates on a 24/7 basis.

The SI Taxpayers' Association, Inc. has been against these Private Pump stations for years. We are constantly testifying of our lack of basics. We realize that the city can little afford to give us these things, especially now. Our only recourse with so little infrastructure in these areas is downzoning.

We ask that this committee help us help ourselves and approve this ULURP.

Respectfully yours,

  
Dee G. Vandenburg, President

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 090397<sup>ZMK</sup> Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor /  in opposition

Date: 1/26/2010

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: RONALD SCHULMAN, BEST DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Address: 250 E. HARTSDALE AVE #29 HARTSDALE, NY

I represent: WESTPORT COMMONS LLC

Address: c/o 250 E. HARTSDALE AVE. HARTSDALE, NY  
10530

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. 090176<sup>ZRR</sup> Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor /  in opposition

Date: 1/26/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: RAND ROSENBAUM, AIA

Address: 2001 MARCUS AVE. LAKE SUCCESS, NY

I represent: ROG - BROOKSIDE AMBOY, LLC

Address: AMBOY ROAD & RICHMOND AVENUE

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. C090397

in favor  in opposition

FOR ANSWERING QUESTIONS ONLY.

Date: 1/26/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MR. ARIEL ALFANG AIA

Address: 7 PURY CT., JEWES CITY NJ

I represent: HS ARCHITECTS

Address: 21 W. 27<sup>th</sup> ST, 1100 NY NY

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. C090642MR

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1-26-2010

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: PASTOR MELINDA STORKMAN

Address: 1229 ROCKLAND AVE STATEY ISLAND

I represent: IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Address: 2018 RICHMOND AVE, STATEY ISLAND

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. T-2010-0037 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/26/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lee Vandenburg

Address: 65 Veith Place

I represent: Staten Island Taxpayers Assoc.

Address: 65 Veith Place 10312

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. C090042 ZMR Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1-25-10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Alex Zablocki

Address: 3845 Richmond Ave 10307

I represent: Senator Andrew Lanza

Address: Same

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. T-2010-0037 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/26/2010

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Theresa HERRING

Address: 36 Clay Pit Road

I represent: The Civic Association of Sandy Ground (CASG)

Address: Staten Island, N.Y.

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. C090042 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: Jan 26, 2010

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Yvonne Taylor

Address: 15 Elmbank St

I represent: Rossville AME Zion Church

Address: 584 Bloomingdale Rd. S.I. 10309

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. C090042 ZMR Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1-26-10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rev JAVET H. JONES 7

Address: 412 Newman Springs Rd Red Bank, NJ 07070

I represent: Rossville AME Zion Church

Address: 584 Bloomingdale Rd S.I, NY 10309

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. C090042 ZMR Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/26/10

Name: Rev. Will Nichols (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 146 Admiralty Coop S.I NY 10309

I represent: S.I. Council of Churches

Address: 2187 Victory Blvd S.I NY 10314

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. 090042 <sup>ZNR</sup> Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/26/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DENNIS DEL'ANGELO

Address: 50 SHERWOOD AVE.

I represent: PLEASANT PLAINS BAY RICHMOND VALLEY

Address: PO BOX 204 S.H.Y. 10309

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 090176

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/26/2010

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SHARON VALENTIN

Address: 185 ST. MARKS PL. 18B

I represent: ST NY 10301

Address: CPTA

Address: SAME AS ABOVE

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 16901762 RP Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1-26-2010

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: William T. Owens Jr

Address: 900 SOUTH AVE SING 10304 SUITE 50

I represent: ROSSVILLE Church STATEM ISLAND NY.

Address: 584 Boomingdale Road SING NY 10309

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Sandy  
ground  
Reynolds*

Appearance Card

[ ]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 7/26/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Debra Santallibarsone

Address: S.I. ny

I represent: Rossville A.M.E. Zion

Address: 584 Bloomingdale Rd 57 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: FRANK JORDAN

Address: 15 Elmbank Street SI, NY

I represent: Rosville A.M.E. Zion Church

Address: 15 Elmbank St. SI, NY

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[ ]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 195176218 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1-26-10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ELMORE TAXER

Address: 15 Elmbank St S.I. NY 10312

I represent: Rosville A.M.E. Church

Address: 584 Bloomingdale Rd S.I. NY