CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES

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April 17, 2024 Start: 10:11 a.m. Recess: 11:17 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Room, 16th

Floor

B E F O R E: Kevin C. Riley,

Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shaun Abreu
David M. Carr
Kamillah Hanks
Francisco P. Moya

Yusef Salaam Lynn C. Schulman

APPEARANCES

Jay Segel
Attorney with the Law firm of Greenberg Traurig

Lisa Orrantia
Applicant AA Atlantic LLC

Sanjana Gupta Project Manager at Paths Development

Sung Kim
Magnusson Architecture and Planning

Cody Erhart Landscape Architect at Terrain NYC

Anna Weiss Senior Vice President at Paths Development 2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: SERGEANT AT ARMS: Check,
3 check, check on the Subcommittee on Zoning and
4 Franchises on the 16th Floor on April 17, 2024,

5 recorded by Patrick Kay. Check, check.

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SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning and welcome to the New York City Council Hearing with the Committee on Zoning and Franchise. At this time, can everybody please silence your cellphones. If you wish to testify, please come up to the Sergeant at Arms desk to fill out a testimony slip. At this time and going forward, no one is to approach the dais. I repeat, no one is to approach the dais. Chair, we are ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: [GAVEL] Good morning everyone and welcome to the meeting of the Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises. I am Council Member Kevin Riley, Chair of this Subcommittee. This morning, I am joined remotely by Council Member Moya, Council Member Abreu, Council Member Schulman, Council Member Carr, and Council Member Ossè. Today, we are scheduled to hold four votes and then three hearings. The first vote concerns LU's 57, which consists of the Gaming Facility Text Amendment. The second vote concerns LU's 41, 42, 43, 46, and 47,

which consists of the 341 10th Street Rezoning 2 3 Proposal. The third vote concerns LU's 58, which consists of the 41 Richard Street Rezoning Proposal. 4 5 The fourth and final vote concerns LU 61, which consists of the 80-01 Broadway Commercial Overlay 6 7 Rezoning Proposal. Switching to the hearings, we will first hear a proposal that concerns then hear a 8 text amendment to decrease parking requirements to facilitate new residential buildings in Harlem. 10 11 will then hear a proposal that concerns a mixed-use 12 residential development proposed at 282-311, Marcus Garvey Boulevard in Bed Stuey Brooklyn. The third 13 and final hearing concerns a mixed-use residential 14 15 development at 1289 Atlantic Avenue also in Bed Stuey. I will now go over hearing procedures. 16 17 This meeting is being held in hybrid format. 18 Members of the public who wish to testify, may 19 testimony in person or via Zoom. Members of the 20 public wishing to testify remotely may register by visiting the New York City Council website at 21 www.council.nyc.gov/landuse to sign up and for those 2.2 2.3 of you here in the Chambers or in Room 16, please see

one of the Sergeant at Arms to prepare and submit a

speakers card. Members of the public may also view a

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2 live stream broadcast of this meeting at the

3 Council's website. When you are called to testify

4 before this Subcommittee, if you are joining us

5 remotely, you will remain muted until recognized by

6 myself to speak. When you are recognized, your

7 microphone will be unmuted. Please take a moment to

check your device and confirm that your mic is on

9 before you begin speaking.

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We will limit public testimony to two minutes per witness. If you have additional testimony, you would like the Subcommittee to consider or you have written testimony you would like to submit instead of appearing in person, please email it to landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov. Written testimony may be submitted up to three days after the hearing is closed. Please indicate the LU Number or the project name in the subject line of your email.

We request that the witnesses joining us remotely remain in the meeting until excused by myself as Council Members may have questions. Lastly, for everyone attending today's meeting, this is a government proceeding and that the quorum must be observed at all times. Members of the public are asked not to speak during the meeting unless you are

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2 testifying. The witness table is reserved for people

3 | who are called to testify and no video recording or

4 photography is allowed from the witness table.

5 Further, members of the public may not present audio

6 or video recordings as testimony but may submit

7 transcripts of such recordings to the Sergeant at

Arms for inclusion in the hearing records.

Starting with today's vote, the first is to approve LU's 57, which concerns the Gaming Facility Text Amendment. In 2022, the state authorized the issuance of up to three licensed to operate a gaming facility downstate, including New York City. As part of the authorization, the state specified a detailed application and review process that includes a mandatory local review.

Presently, casinos are not allowed in the city.

The proposed text amendment would allow applicants to submit development proposals located in the city and compete for one of the three authorized gaming license to be issued by the state. Only an applicant awarded in the gaming license would be able to actually build a casino under the proposed text amendment.

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If an applicant located in the city is awarded a gaming license, the underlining zoning regulations would not apply. It is the site planned approve as part of the local review process that will govern what the selected applicant can build. It is important to remember that we are not voting today to allow any specific proposal to be built but simply providing applicants with proposed sites in the city the ability to compete for one of the three license that the state is seeking to issue in the city and surrounding counties.

The second vote is to approve LU's 41, 42, 43, 46, and 47, concerning a proposal known as the 341 10^{th} Street. This is a mixed-use residential development proposal located in Council Member Avilés district in Park Slope Brooklyn. The development is anticipated to create approximately 300 new units, preserve 154 units and include ground floor commercial space as well as open space. This is a complicated project that involves five actions because it includes an existing building and the site is located over subway tracks.

The first proposed action involves rezoning a residential area from an R6A to an R7-3 residential

district with a C2-4 commercial overlay. The second proposed action is to map two different MIH areas, one for workforce housing at a higher area median income and another area at the lower area median

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6 income. Although we do not use the map to workforce

7 option, here is warranted due to the high

8 construction cost associated with building above

9 subway tracks.

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And also, because applicants have committed to both provide one of the new buildings for senior housing and to preserve the current rents in the existing building. The third and fourth action are special permits that modify the applicable bulk and the parking regulations given the unusual site conditions.

The fifth action is to approve a property tax exemption that will facilitate the preservation of the existing building and creation of the senior housing. Council Member Avilés supports this proposal. The third vote is to approve LU's 58 concerning the proposal known as the 41 Richard Street. This is a mixed-use manufacturing development proposal located in Red Hook Brooklyn.

That is also in Council Member Avilés district.

1 SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 2 is an unusual proposal as well in that the developer 3 is proposing to develop a building predominantly for manufacturing uses, specifically targeting small 4 5 businesses. This is the type of project that the city needs to retain its manufacturing base. 6 7 The proposal consists of rezoning an existing M1-1 manufacturing area to an M1-5 manufacturing area, 8 which has higher density. Council Member Avilés supports this proposal. 10 11 The fourth and final vote is to approve LU 61, 12 which concerns that proposal known as the 80-01 Broadway Commercial Overlay. This proposal is 13 14 located in Elmhurst Queens in Council Member 15 Krishnan's District. The proposal seeks to legalize 16 existing commercial uses along a section of Broadway that is presently an active commercial corridor. 17 18 Council Member Krishnan supports this proposal. 19 Council, are there any Council Members with 20 questions or remarks at this time? 21 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: No Chair. 2.2 CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Okay, I now call for a vote 2.3 to approve LU's 57 relating to the - oh and before I do, we are joined by Council Member Hanks. 24

about that.

1 2 I now call for a vote to approve LU 57 relating 3 to the Gaming Facilities Text Amendment Proposal to approve LU's 41, 42, 43, 46, and 47 relating to the 4 341 10th Street Rezoning Proposal to approve LU's 58, 5 relating to the 41 Richard Street Rezoning Proposal 6 7 and to approve LU 61 relating to the 80-01 Broadway Commercial Overlay Proposal. 8 9 Counsel, can you please call the roll? COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Chair Riley? 10 11 CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Aye on all. 12 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member Moya? 13 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye. COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member Abreu? 14 15 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye. 16 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member Hanks? 17 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye on all. 18 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member Schulman? 19 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all. 20 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member Carr? 21 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Permission to briefly 2.2 explain my vote.

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Thank you Chair. I just wanted to say that crucial for me in this decision-

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Permission granted.

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making process is the Sunset Provision which was added by the Commission before it came to the Council because while I respect the wish of others to perhaps consider casino applications for their areas and there's a great local stakeholder structured group that will be making the decision on each application. It is not something that I'd like to see in my community but given that there is a Sunset, there's no danger of that and that's why I'm comfortable voting aye on the Gaming Text Amendment as well as

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Thank you.

the other items.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member Salaam who will be appearing but I believe — Council Member Salaam? Council Member Salaam, how do you vote or would it be helpful just to repeat the project that we're voting on?

So, aye on all.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Oh yes please repeat.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: We are voting to approve LU's 57 relating to the Gaming Facilities Text Amendment Proposal to approve LU's 41, 42, 43, 46, and 47, relating to 341 10th Street Rezoning Proposal to approve LU's 58 relating to 41 Richard Street

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Rezoning Proposal and to approve LU 61 relating to 80-01 Broadway Commercial Overlay Proposal.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: How do you vote Council Member Salaam?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I vote yes on all.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: By a vote of 7 in the affirmative, 0 opposing and 0 abstention, the items are approved and referred to the full Land Use Committee.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Thank you. I now open the first public hearing on Preconsidered LU's relating to the 15-21 124th Street Text Amendment Proposal in Council Member Salaam's District. The proposal seeks to facilitate the construction of new housing in certain parts of Harlem by lowering the required amount of parking in R6A zoning district within the special 125th Street District in Harlem. For anyone wishing to testify on these items remotely, if you have not already done so, you must register online and you may do that now by visiting the Council's website at council.nyc.gov/landuse. And once again, for anyone with us in person, please see one of the Sergeants to prepare and submit a speakers card. If you would prefer to submit a written testimony, you

application team may begin. Please remember to

2 reinstate your name and organization for the record.

3 You may begin.

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JAY SEGEL: My name is Jay Segel, I'm an Attorney with the Law firm of Greenberg Traurig and I represent the applicant. Can we put a presentation on the screen please? As you said Chair Riley, this is an application to construct a new residential building in an R6A district that would complete 124th Street between 5th and Lenox Avenue right across from Marcus Garvey Park that we comply with all aspects of the Zoning Resolution except for parking and we seek a text amendment of the Zoning Resolution so that the 33 units in this building will not have to have a garage with 17 parking spaces. The purpose of the — can we change the image please? Next.

This is showing what I already said the site, it's slightly over 10,000 square feet in the R6A District. Next please. Again, it's right across from Marcus Garvey Park. Next. And the Text Amendment would say that R6A Zoning Districts, which have a 50 percent parking requirement would be treated in the special hodge in 25th Street District as if they were in R7 Districts which has a much lesser parking requirement of 30 percent so that in

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2 site to size with 33 units, the parking would wave

out and we would not have to construct the garage.

Next please.

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And our site is in CB10. There are other 6A sites that would be subject to this amendment in theory that are both in Community Board 10 and Community Board 11 but in practice, we don't think any of them would benefit from them because they are already built up. We're the only site that's unimproved and we'd be the only site that we think would benefit from this Text Amendment. Next please.

What we're showing is the reason we think we do not need a parking garage is that we're very near a railroad. We're very near at least five subway lines. Many bus lines and four city bike stations. So, we think that the people who would be living in our 33 apartments, almost all of them would take mass transit and a garage with 17 spaces would be unnecessary. Next please.

This just shows the outline of our building which would be complying with zoning resolutions, it must. It would be 70 feet high. It would have about 30,000 square feet and it would have about 33 units. Next please.

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Well, these are the details but this is the
language in the Text Amendment that would effectuate
what I describe. It would treat new buildings in an
R6A as if they were in an R7 and they would benefit
from the R7 provisions, which have only a 30 percent
parking requirement and then wave out a low amount of

parking spaces, which here would amount to no spaces.

It would be a complete waiver. Next please.

Again, this is explaining what I just said. Next please. These are some images of community facilities in the area. Next please. Again, in the park across the street. I mean I suppose one of the reasons of showing the park across the street is that we would not have a curb cut right across the street from the park, which is generally a good thing not to have cars going in and out right across from a park. Next please. And this is again, an illustration of the building. That's my presentation. Questions?

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Thank you so much Jay. So,

JAY SEGEL: Right, is that the parking requirement in an R7 is 30 percent of the units and that would mean 33 times 30 percent we would need 10

you kept reiterating all parking will be waived.

What do you mean by that?

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JAY SEGEL:

Yes.

would be an important thing for the building.

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Without the community facility space, you don't lose any floor area. You make it additional residential space that you need. You get a maximum height of only 70 feet and the applicant decided that it was more beneficial to have extra residential space than it was to have the extra 5 feet in height.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Is the applicant amenable to including community facility space for seniors in the ground floor of the building? And if so, how much space could be made available for that purpose?

JAY SEGEL: Yeah, you did raise that subject with us and I'd prefer to chat with you about that, which we're in the hearing today and between the vote of the Committee. In part, because my client is out of town and I want him to be part of the conversation, so hopefully we can start talking about it very soon and communicate with him and he's due back next week. And try to reach an agreement as to what makes sense to you and what we can do.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: How has the applicant responded to Community Board 10 and Community Board 11's concern about coordination with Harlem Village Academy's west lower elementary school during

construction and also, prioritizing local hiring for
construction?

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JAY SEGEL: Again, I would prefer to chat with you about that after the hearing. We have not yet communicated with them in part because as you know, they voted against the application. Although the Borough Board voted in favor and the Manhattan Borough President voted in favor and although the Land Use Committee of Community Board 10 voted in favor, overall they voted against so there hadn't been any follow up conversations about some of the details of what they asked for. But of course, we'd be happy to chat with you about that.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: And also, what is the breakdown for the units in this project in regards to market rate versus affordable units?

JAY SEGEL: It's totally market rate and I don't know how much above affordable market rate will be in this area. When it's market rate, there's no MIH.

There's no upzoning. There's no relief. We're in a — just for the clarification, we're in a zoning district. I know you understand this Councilman Salaam but for the other Council Members, we're in the zoning district that doesn't require affordable

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CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Thank you. Thank you Council

affordable housing if the state actually does what we're reading about and there's a 420, 4- what is it? 485X something that I'm reading in the newspapers that actually gets enacted. There might be some

affordable housing in a building but up until we've heard about this, with no tax exemptions available

that the applicant - the owner was going to build

housing and it may be that there will be some

with the zoning resolution allowed, which is market

rate.

affordable units made available?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Uhm, given that we don't know yet like you said in terms of the tax exemptions that are coming down the pike, if it's going to be yes or no. I'm wondering, is there room to have

JAY SEGEL: Not without a tax exemption, no. This is a small project and it is going to be built and the question is whether we need a garage that we don't think makes sense. There's no room to turn it into a partially affordable project unless there's some tax relief that the state is going to grant.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: That's all I have.

Member Salaam. Are there any members of the

2 Subcommittee that have questions for this applicant panel?

There being no questions, this applicant panel is excused. Council, are there any members of the public who wish to testify regarding the Special Permit Application relating to 15-21, 124th Street Text Amendment Proposal?

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: No one has signed up to testify in person and no one has signed up online either to testify. So, we can proceed with closing this hearing.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Thank you. There being no members of the public who wish to testify on Preconsiders LU's regarding the 15-21, 120th Street Text Amendment Proposal, the public hearing is now closed and the item is laid over. Please hold one second.

Uhm, there's going to be a little change, we're actually going to hear 1289 Atlantic Avenue second and we're going to hear 281-311 Marcus Garvey

Boulevard after. So, I will now open —

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Chair, if I may just interrupt you, sorry for that. It appears that the

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2 applicant - we're also waiting on the applicant for 3 1289 Atlantic Avenue, so we'll need to pause. Oh -

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CHAIRPERSON RILEY: You're hear for 1289?

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Yes. Okay, my apologies Chair.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Alright, good alright. I would now like to open up the public hearing for Preconsiders LU's relating to the 1289 Atlantic Avenue Rezoning Proposal located in Council Member Ossè's District in Bed Stuey Brooklyn. The proposal is to develop a mixed-use residential development with approximately 112 units that will be subject to mandatory inclusionary housing.

For anyone wishing to testify on these items remotely, if you have not already done so, you must register online and you may do that now by visiting the Council's website at council.nyc.gov/landuse.

And once again for anyone with us in person, please see one of the Sergeants to prepare and submit a speakers card. If you would prefer to submit written testimony, you can also do so by emailing to landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov.

I would now like to give Council Member Ossè the floor to give any remarks.

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COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÈ: Thank you Chair Riley and good morning to all colleagues on this Committee and thank you again for giving me the opportunity to speak regarding the applications for 281-311 Marcus Garvey and 1289 Atlantic Avenue. As you know, my name is Council Member Chi Ossè, I represent the 36th District. The two aforementioned applications are in my district and I am here today to talk about the importance of both of these projects.

There is no question, as we all know that New York City is going through a housing crisis, primarily thanks to the dire shortage that we are seeing across all of our districts or most of our districts. It truly has a significant impact on the communities of Bed Stuey in North Crown Heights and this is an emergency that we have to tackle, especially in terms of the shortage that we are seeing.

Over the past ten years, my district has seen the largest displacement or demographical shift of Black people out of every other community within New York City and this is primarily due to lack of affordable housing and housing in general. It is crucial that we ensure our neighbors are able to remain in the

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communities they were raised in and to do that, we must increase any and all affordable housing opportunities when we can.

Now, I'm going to speak about both of these projects. The first is 281-311 Marcus Garvey and the application seeks a rezoning to facilitate the construction of two mixed use buildings with a total of 154 dwelling units. I'm very excited about this project because it will be 100 percent affordable housing. Targeting units to those who were formerly homeless and those with AMI's in the 30 percent to 80 percent range. Just to give a breakdown of what those rents would look like in this development, they will be as low as \$215 per month for a studio for those who were formerly homeless and as high as \$2,665 for a three-bedroom unit for those in the 80 percent AMI level. I'm not sure if anyone's been looking for an apartment in Bed Stuey any time recently but that is crazy low rents for a three bedroom.

The development will bring in more affordable units to the 36 District, which will provide more opportunities for residents to remain in their communities and I am in full support of this project.

The 1289 Atlantic Avenue application seeks a rezoning to facilitate the construction of a 14-story mixed use building with ground floor, retail space, 112 dwelling units and 41 residential parking spaces. know that ears of my constituents perk up when they hear that. The applicant has also proposed creating a pedestrian plaza adjacent to the northern entrance to the Atlantic Avenue LIRR Station. I'm very pleased to see the applicant propose a development that goes further than MIH by making use of HPD's Mix and Match program. 62 of the proposed 112 units of housing, which is more than half in this development would be affordable to households making less than 60 percent AMI, and the remainder would be available to households making 90 and 130 percent AMI.

As we review this particular application, I continue to urge the applicant to commit to the proposal to use the Mix and Match program.

Commitment to the term sheet is an incredibly important element of this project. Using the Mix and Match program will expand the number of affordable housing opportunities for the project, which may not be possible under the traditional MIH options.

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presentation, please send an email request to

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landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov. And now, the
applicant team may begin. Please just reinstate your
name and organization for the record.

LISA ORRANTIA: Thank you Chair Riley and good morning Council Members. My name is Lisa Orrantia on behalf of the Applicant AA Atlantic LLC. This application is for a Zoning Map Amendment changing an M11 District to a C45X and R6B Districts and a text amendment to map an MIH area for Options 1 and 2 to facilitate the development of a site in Bed Stuey in Community District 3. Next slide please.

The project area is on Atlantic Avenue between Nordstrom and New York Avenues, next to Nordstrom Avenue LIRR station. Next slide.

The project area has approximately 550 feet of frontage on Atlantic Avenue and 167 feet along New York Avenue. The development site comprises about 27,000 square feet of lot area. Next slide.

The proposed rezoning in MIH area would help mitigate the housing crisis by allowing new transit oriented affordable housing, facilitate investment in community amenities and growth of local services, strengthen and improve the streetscape and safety along the Atlantic Avenue corridor, and allow a

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29 maximum building height compatible with nearby zoning districts. Next slide.

Under the proposed rezoning, a proposed pedestrian plaza will replace a former hardware store currently used as an event space at the corner of Atlantic and New York Avenues and six residential buildings on New York Avenue will become conforming. Next slide.

Along Atlantic Avenue, the new building will replace commercial vehicle storage and parking lots, a vacant warehouse, a former contractor shop used as a house of worship. The event space and church tenants have been offered space to rent in the new building. Next slide.

For existing uses in the project area under the proposed rezoning, a tire and woodworking shop can continue as nonconforming uses, unoccupied warehouses can be developed for new as of right uses and residential and commercial buildings and open parking lots can continue as of right. Next slide.

The proposed development is a 14-story mixed-use building with about 20,000 square feet of commercial uses on the first floor, 17,000 square feet of community facility space on the 2nd floor and 112

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2 apartments on upper floors with 41 residential
3 parking spaces in the cellar. A 2,500 square foot

4 landscaped seating area, including an MTA clear path

5 easement will adjoin the LIRR stairway. Next slide.

All apartments will be rented to households earning a range of affordability tiers under the Mix and Match program including 28 units under MIH Option 1. Next slide.

Community Board 3 and the Borough Presidents

Office recommend approval of the application with

conditions and with regard to these recommended

conditions, we'd like to note that a separate

application for certification of a transit volume

will establish a permanent clear path easement with

MTA to support accessibility around the LIRR

stairway.

Prior to demolition and construction adjoining owners are able to negotiate access and license agreements with specific terms providing for property protection. Instead of an MX District, which is what the Borough President recommended, we believe a new zoning district should support a mixed commercial and residential neighborhood for several reasons. The Atlantic Avenue corridor is no longer a manufacturing

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corridor because site access is constrained by the

adjacent seat of residential uses and the elevated

rail and as a result a majority of the property areas

comprised of shuttered warehouses, closed shops and

6 parking lots.

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Lastly, existing industrial uses, light industrial uses in small maker spaces can continue as nonconforming uses under the rezoning and may even become allowed as of right under the proposed text City of Yes for Economic Opportunity.

Lastly, regarding parking, community members reacted positively to the proposed parking but we will reevaluate the parking requirement under the Housing Opportunity Text Amendment and we're also waiting for HPD's review of our program design for a definitive dwelling unit count. The next slide shows a site plan and that concludes the presentation. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Thank you so much. I just have a few questions and then I'm going to pass it over to Council Member Ossè. Are there existing commercial manufacturing businesses that are operating within the rezoning area that you mentioned? Have any of these businesses shown

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interest in returning to the site once they're
redeveloped and if so, which businesses and what are
the relocation plans pending construction?

LISA ORRANTIA: Yeah, so as I mentioned, the tenants of the event space and the House of Worship have been offered space in the new building. The tire and woodworking shops can continue as nonconforming uses and to the extent that they become as of right uses under the rezoning, they are also welcome to use space in the new building.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Why did you select a C4-5X District for this site and not a C4-5D, which has an equivalent residential R7D District that is usually mapped along elevated trainlines such as here?

LISA ORRANTIA: The C4-5X allows the additional height for the building, which we thought was appropriate. We were able to provide with that additional height, we were able to achieve the 112 dwelling units and also set the building back from the sidewalk by 5 feet to allow additional room along at the street level while also providing significant setback at the rear lot line.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: If this application isn't approved, what would the applicant do with this site?

LISA ORRANTIA: Not that I'm aware of.

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÈ: Great and what is your level of commitment to ensuring this will be a Mix and Match project?

LISA ORRANTIA: Uhm, well, we do our best to comply with the requirements of HPD and you know we look forward to having further conversations with them.

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÈ: Thank you and thank you Chair.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Thank you Council Member
Ossè. Are there any members of the Subcommittee that
have questions for this applicant panel? There being
no questions, this panel is now excused. Counsel,
are there any members of the public who wish to
testify on 1289 Atlantic Avenue Rezoning Proposal
remotely or in person?

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: There is no one who has signed up online to testify to this proposal and there is no one in the room also who has signed up to testify, so we can go forward and close this hearing.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: There being no members of the public who wish to testify on the Preconsiders LU's relating to the 1289 Atlantic Avenue Rezoning

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2 Proposal, the public hearing is now closed and the

3 | item is laid over.

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We're going to just be on pause real quick. will now open the last hearing on Preconsiders LU's relating to 281-311 Marcus Garvey Boulevard Rezoning proposal located in Council Member Ossè's District in Bed Stuey Brooklyn. The proposal consists of two mixed use buildings that will contain approximately 155 residential units. Both buildings would be subject to mandatory inclusionary housing. For anyone wishing to testify on these items remotely, if you have not already done so, you must register online and you may do that now by visiting the Council's website at council.nyc.gov/landuse. Once again, for anyone with us in person, please see one of the Sergeants to prepare and submit a speaker card. If you prefer to submit written testimony, you can always do so by emailing it to

landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov.

Council Member Ossè, you want to give remarks?

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÈ: I think I spoke about both of the projects before but thank you Chair.

affirm to tell the truth and nothing but the truth in

1 SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES

2 your testimony today with the Council Members and in

3 response to their questions?

PANEL: Yes.

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CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Thank you. For the viewing public, if you need an accessible version of this presentation, please send an email request to landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov. And now the applicant team may begin. I'll just ask that you please reinstate your name and organization for the record before you begin. You may begin.

ANNA WEISS: Hi, good morning. Thank you so much for having us here today. My name is Anna Weiss, I'm a Senior Vice President of Development at Paths

Development and today we want to introduce you to our proposed new construction project which is 100

percent affordable comprised of 155 apartments across two buildings, tentatively titled Marcus Garvey

Boulevard Apartments and in addition to those 155

affordable apartments, we are also proposing commercial and community facility uses along the ground floors and second floors.

As part of the rezoning, we will also be improving over 27,000 square feet of open space on

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2 these parcels and in the adjacent neighborhoods.

3 Next slide.

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So, as part of the rezoning requests we would be rezoning to R7A C24 along Marcus Garvey Boulevard. This would require us to amend Appendix F to establish Mandatory Inclusionary Housing area over the rezoning area and then we would also be — we are also requesting special permits pursuant to ZR74 743 to allow for distribution of floor area and pursuant to ZR74 532 to allow for a reduction of previously required parking spaces uhm, that are an accessory to the existing buildings and moving that to 118 spaces. Next slide.

Thank you. So, here you can see the zoning map with our area, the proposed project area highlighted in a yellow circle. Next slide.

Thank you and on the left-hand side, you can see the current zoning map and on the right-hand side of this you can see the proposed zoning map, the area being rezoned is outlined with dotted lines and go to the next slide please. Thank you.

So a bit about Paths, we are an affordable, a vertically integrated affordable housing firm. We have been developing and acquiring property since

3 have a property management company, a maintenance

4 company, construction company and security company.

The majority of our projects historically have been in New York, specially New York City, although we do operate nationally and at present we have 12,000 apartments under management. On the righthand side of the screen, you can see an exterior photograph of one of our recent new construction projects. This is Archer Green Apartments. comprised of 387 apartments with commercial and community facility along the first two floors. This is located in Jamaica Queens.

The upper right-hand photograph is an image from the interior living room of one of the Archer Green apartments and below that is another interior living room, kitchen photos from a prior new construction project that we completed. Along the bottom, you can see for some our acquisition and rehab projects -

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: I'm sorry to interrupt you. We just have to swear him in real quick.

ANNA WEISS: Okay, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Just raise your right hand.

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2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Hello, Brock. Please state

3 your name for the record.

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BROCK: Brock.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Do you swear to tell the truth and nothing but the truth in today's testimony before Council Members and in response to questions to Council Members?

BROCK: Yes.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Thank you. Sorry about that.

ANNA WEISS: No, that's fine. Thank you.

Welcome Brock, so along the bottom you can just see some photographs of before and after images of kitchens and bathrooms specifically in previous rehabs that we have completed. You can see that we have a tendency to take deeply distressed properties and turn them into something that are very nice.

Uhm, next slide please. And it's worth
mentioning that we have already a longstanding
commitment in this neighborhood. We have owned Betty
Shabazz Apartments and Medgar Evers Apartments for
over a decade and it's on a portion of these
properties that we are proposing to construct the new

2 project Marcus Garvey Boulevard Apartments. With

3 | that, I'll turn it over to Sung.

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SUNG KIM: Next slide please. So, my name is
Sung Kim, I am the Director of Zoning and Planning in
Magnusson Architecture and Planning. We are an
architecture firm specializing in affordable housing
including senior and supportive housing. Over the
past 30 years, we've developed and built over 100
ground up buildings consisting of over 13,000 new
dwelling units. Here you see images of indoor,
outdoor amenity spaces for the tenants. We put
priority in providing common areas that are equitable
to all the tenants in the building. Next slide
please.

So, here are some more images of exterior shots of our completed affordable housing projects. You know we are dedicated to improving lives and promoting more equitable communities through creation of safe, healthy and dignified place to life. Next slide please.

So, I'll go now into the project site. The image here is an area view of the project sites. There are two project site one, which is highlighted in yellow. The red shaded area is the project site. Currently

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there is a two-story commercial building. It also contains three six-story apartment buildings known as the Medgar Evers. The second site is to the bottom of your image. The project site is shaded in pink. Currently improved with one-story commercial building and also contains two six-story apartment building

So, here is an illustration of a completed project showing two new buildings along Marcus Garvey looking east. Next slide please.

known as Betty Shabazz Apartments. Next slide.

So, in addition to new buildings as Anna mentioned, there would be over 27,000 square feet of new and improved outdoor areas. Next slide please.

So, we'll go a little deeper into each building. This is building A on site 1 again the key plan on the upper right corner, this is shaded in yellow.

This will be — this building will replace existing two-story outdated, underutilized commercial building. This will be a 10 story, totaling approximately 81,000 square feet, containing 84 units. Again, 100 affordable. The ground floor will be a boxing facility and on the second floor will be over 10,000 square feet of a community facility space. Next slide please.

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Here is a view of the second building, Building

B. To keep plan on the upper right, it's shaded in

pink. This building is to replace existing one-story

commercial building. This building will be a 10

story approximately a 59,600 square foot building,

containing 71 dwelling units. It will also contain a

retail space on the ground floor. Next slide please.

So, here are two site plan diagram outlining where the new and improved over 27,000 square feet of open space will be located. On your left-hand side is the key plan noted as in letters open space letters A and B will be new open space created along with two new buildings. Open space C will be an improved outdoor rec space above an existing parking structure. Open spaces E and D will be an improved landscape outdoor area. The image on the right is an illustration of what they may look like. Next slide.

And lastly, here is an image of open space C above the existing parking structure. There will be improved recreational space with basketball courts, exercise equipment and children's play area. Next slide.

With that, I'll pass it on to Sanjana who will discuss more about the project.

SANJANA GUPTA: Hi everyone. I'm Sanjana Gupta from Paths Development. As we can see on the slide the unit mix and that this is a 100 percent affordable project. That project will be financed by the HPD ELLA program and it will serve AMI ranges from 30 to 80 percent and there will be apartments set aside for formerly homeless households through the Our Space Initiative. Rents range from \$486 for the least expensive apartment and up to \$2,665 for a three bedroom, which is our largest unit type and this is at the highest income level. Next slide

Now, to discuss community benefits. Our project offers many to the neighborhood. We will be first to re-tenanting the boxing gym, which we understand is a major anchor within the community and this will now be home to a warm and beautiful space for the next 50 years. Additionally, the project will include a new class A space, a commercial space and we hope to retenant this with our existing grocery store tenant.

Furthermore, residents of Medgar Evers and Betty
Shabazz Apartments, which are located on the same
land as the proposed new construction projects will

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also be able to access the 27,000 square feet of open

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space.

The project will also lead to the creation of a multitude of jobs, ranging from operational to construction roles and the proposed new construction will be monitored by cameras, security, and will have access control added for the safety of our tenants, which is our highest priority.

And last but not least, we must note the green initiatives that will be provided through the building which includes sustainable materials, heat pumps, increased insulation, energy efficient appliances and fixtures just to name a few and these are just the main community benefits of the many that will be brought out to the neighborhood by the project. Next slide please.

And I believe that concludes our presentation. We would like to open for any questions that you may have. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Thank you so much. So, how do the current residents feel about this project?

ANNA WEISS: So, we've had uhm, a number of conversations with the Tenant Association Leaders of Betty and Medgar and kept them apprised of the

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project as we've progressed the design, we'll continue to do so. I think that they are generally supportive of the project. They have come out for our community board meetings and they're looking forward to the open space improvements that would benefit the Medgar and Betty existing residents as well.

I would note the boxing gym is something that is very important to the community. We've had multiple conversations with that with both the boxing gym and with our residents to understand that importance and to make sure that we can implement a plan moving forward that keeps them re-tenanted in the neighborhood long term.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: What is the regulatory status of the existing 335 units in the 5 existing buildings?

ANNA WEISS: Can you — when you say the regulatory status, they are currently in their lihtc period and they have not yet reached year 15.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: How are they affordable?
Under which program are they affordable under?

ANNA WEISS: Uh, these, I think they have, well, they're affordable under the low-income housing tax

2 credit program federally and I believe we have many

3 portable vouchers within the individual apartment

4 units and then there's also just to support that, an

5 Article 11 on both of the properties that currently

6 exist.

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CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Regarding the open space, how is the open space that is above the parking garage part of this Application?

ANNA WEISS: So, we went through multiple iterations of potential landscaping, open space and plans when we were in the precertification period with DCP and it was important to them that along Gates Avenue, there would be also improvements, not just along Marcus Garvey Boulevard Apartment but something that would also benefit all of the neighborhood in terms of sightliness and particularly our residents in terms of usage.

So, for that parking garage that is an existing parking structure, at present, there is some recreation you know up top but our goal would be to really bring that to the next level. As you may have seen in that rendering, what we are proposing is a new basketball court, turf space, seating space with some shade structures, you know umbrellas and tables,

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 48 an outdoor fitness area, a new playground, something that would just make this a real draw for the community overall but again, that would just be on the top of that existing structure, which is still part of you know the existing building.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: And where is the current boxing gym at?

ANNA WEISS: So, the boxing gym, if we could go back to let's see, the areal rendering of existing conditions, that is along Marcus, it's part of Marcus, sorry. Medgar Evers Apartments along Marcus Garvey Boulevard between Quincy and Gates and we are proposing in this presentation, we are proposing that they would be you know that same location. as we're going down the line and having conversations with both the boxing gym and the grocery store, you know we can see where the best fit between these two buildings would be for their space and their future plans.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: And what's going to happen during construction to the program that's at the boxing gym?

ANNA WEISS: So, this is still under sort of review and consideration but we understand that a

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fixation of services would not serve the neighborhood well and so, what we would be looking to try to do would be to create a temporary location for them for the duration of construction, so that they can continue to serve the community and then be retenanted into this new class A space, bringing them forward for the next you know 40-50 years.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Thank you. Council Member Ossè.

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÈ: Just to — thank you Chair.

Just to follow up off of the Chairs point. What does that agreement look like between you all or the new management and the owner of the boxing gym in terms of making sure that they are the new tenants or the same tenants when development is done?

ANNA WEISS: Yes, this is something that we haven't yet codified but we have talked about how we could memorialize that. Nothing has been set in stone but you know they certainly have expressed that they would like assurances that we're going to build this and then they will have that long-term right to use that space. And so, how that will ultimately be papered is still to be determined between our teams

them.

preclosing process.

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÈ: Do you have a rough idea of when that will come into existence or is that?

ANNA WEISS: I'm guessing, you know as we continue to develop the plans and we are able to pinpoint exactly what their space would look like and you know how we can best serve them moving forward, we would be hammering that out as part of our

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÈ: Oh great. Can you describe the size of the dwellings or the size of the units that will be built in terms of square footage?

ANNA WEISS: Let me see if I can pull that up. Sung, I don't know if you have that handy.

SUNG KIM: Yes, so all the dwelling units will be built you know in accordance with HPD's minimum design standards. So, typically studio, you know we're ranging between 451 and 500 square feet. One bedroom between 550 and 600 square feet. Two-bedroom units are around 800 square feet. Three-bedroom units 950 to 1,000 square feet.

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÈ: Thank you. I mean I'm relatively supportive of this project as I shared in

ANNA WEISS: Thank you. That support is appreciated and we continue to discuss this with HPD. You know we've penciled this out under the ELLA program using subsidy and are contemplating some potential tweaks to that in order to make sure that this could get into the ground sooner rather than later and we can provide this to the neighborhood.

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÈ: Thank you.

ANNA WEISS: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: One more question. Can Council Member Ossè and I come to the boxing gym when it's ready?

ANNA WEISS: I am sure that they would welcome you with open arms.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Oh, I love it. Thank you.

Uhm, are there any other questions for this applicant
panel? There being no questions, this applicant
panel is excused. Thank you so much.

ANNA WEISS: Thank you for your time.

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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 15, 2024