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April 4, 2008

Hon. Melissa Mark-Viverito
105 East 116th Street
New York, NY 10029

Deputy Mayor Robert Lieber
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: East 125th Street Development ULURP Certification

Dear Councilmember Mark-Viverito and Deputy Mayor Lieber:

As you are aware, Community Board 11 has served as the Chair of the East 125th Street Development Community Taskforce since its inception in 2006. With our many community partners on the Taskforce we worked to shape the RFP and have since reviewed the responses.

While the Community Taskforce includes active representatives of the East Harlem community, due to its size and original mandate the Taskforce was never intended to be representative of the broadest cross-section of the community. That is the role of our Community Board - our ability to connect and communicate with the greater East Harlem community provides our constituents the opportunity to review and comment on important land-use decisions and approvals, such as those associated with the East 125th Street Development.

It is because of the necessity of that vital role that **Manhattan Community Board 11 formally requests your offices intervention in withdrawing the recently certified East 125th Street Development ULURP.** As a single development team and proposal has yet to be designated for this project, our community will not get the opportunity to ask the development team important land-use questions, nor will they have access to a detailed set of promised community benefits. The community wants to ensure that specific commitments are entered into and achieved for workforce development, local hiring commitments, affordable housing, local retail, cultural programming, all without the use of eminent domain.

To our knowledge, this proposed model of going through ULURP without a specific project has never been used on a project of this scale and importance. As the largest vacant City-owned site in Manhattan we believe our community's right to review in detail a project of such magnitude must be respected. This project will no doubt impact our community for years and for the sake of generations to come we ask that you provide East Harlem the opportunity to fully review and hold accountable commitments made in the East 125th Street Development project.

We respectfully ask for written responses from your offices regarding the above request.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert J. Rodriguez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Rodriguez
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 11

cc: Congressman Charles B. Rangel
Governor David Paterson
State Senator Jose Serrano
State Assemblyman Adam Clayton Powell
Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer
Councilmember Inez Dickens
Chair Amanda Burden
Seth Pinsky, President, NYC EDC
East 125th Street Community Taskforce Members
Doug Jones, NYC EDC