



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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DELORES RUBIN

Chair

JESSE BODINE

District Manager

February 18, 2016

Vicki Been
Commissioner
NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation & Development
100 Gold Street
New York, NY 10038

**Re: Harborview Affordable Housing--NYCHA Site
Hudson Yards Points of Agreement
Proposed RFP--Open Space Parameters**

Dear Commissioner Been:

On the recommendation of its Housing, Health, and Human Services (HH&HS) Committee, Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) voted, by a vote of 38 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, to recommend that the open space design recommendations for the **Harborview Affordable Housing--NYCHA Site** (the "Harborview Site") be included into the RFP for the proposed new building ("the Project Site") that will be constructed on the site.

The Harborview Working Group, which is comprised of the Harborview Tenants Association, MCB4, Housing Conservation Coordinators, Clinton Housing Development Company, Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal, Council Member Helen Rosenthal, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and New York State Senator Brad Hoylman, presented design recommendations to the HH&HS Committee for the open space, focusing on connecting the existing NYCHA developments—the Harborview Terrace family Building and the senior building—with the proposed new affordable housing development on the Harborview Site. MCB4 believes that the proposed design recommendations, which were developed after a planning process with the Harborview Tenant Association, local elected officials, community organizations, and NYCHA (the "Working Group"), offer solutions to ensure that any new development will be integrated into the existing NYCHA campus through open space improvements.

Background

The Project Site is approximately 34,000 square feet and is currently used as a 37 car NYCHA tenant parking lot and basketball courts. The site is located on the blocks between West 55th and West 56th Streets, between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues. The northern block of Harborview Terrace is part of the former Clinton Urban Renewal Area (CURA) that was condemned for affordable housing in 1969. The site is part of a 1974 Large Scale Residential Development (LSRD) that encompasses both the north and south blocks of Harborview Terrace.

In 2005, the New York City Council and the Administration agreed to develop affordable housing on the NYCHA Harborview Site and committed that the site would generate at least 155 affordable units, including 63 low-income units (up to 60% of AMI), 46 moderate income units (up to 135% AMI) and 46 middle income units (up to 165% of AMI). The Hudson Yards Points of Agreement (HY POA) stated that the new building would be no taller than the existing Harborview building. The HY POA also noted that all of the units would be permanently affordable, with NYCHA and HPD leading the development of the site.

An RFP was issued in accordance with these parameters in 2007 and the Atlantic Development Group was selected as the developer. The Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) application for the project was certified in May 2008 and was approved by Council in November 2008. MCB4 did not support the original project for several reasons (see attached letter dated July 11, 2008)¹ including:

- The inclusion of market-rate units that were never agreed to in the HY POA
- The creation of a floor area bonus through the Inclusionary Housing Program
- The project only generated 72 moderate and middle income units, less than the 92 moderate and middle units committed to in the HY POA.
- The majority of the proposed units were studios and one bedroom apartments, which did not meet the community's need for family-sized units.
- The project included a concentration of senior housing. MCB4 believes that senior housing should be integrated throughout the community.

The Atlantic Development Group encountered legal issues and the project did not proceed.

In August of 2013 as part of the negotiations over the Culture Shed, the City Council and the Administration agreed to release a new RFP for the project on or before December 31, 2013 (see attached letter dated July 31, 2013)². MCB4 agreed to reschedule the RFP release date to 2014 in order to allow for more community input for the parameters of the RFP. After the RFP is awarded, the developer will submit a ULURP application for a Special Permit to build over a rail cut and modification to the existing LSRD. Depending on design specifications, other applications may be required.

¹ See Appendix A July 11 2008 Letter

² See Appendix B July 31, 2013 Letter

Harborview Working Group Recommendations for RFP - 2014

The Harborview Working Group was formed in early 2014. The group met on February 18th, May 1st, May 16th, and June 9th. As a result of those meetings, the Working Group defined key objectives for inclusion in the Affordable Housing RFP:

- A public process in which HPD and NYCHA continues to engage with the Harborview Working Group during the development of RFP parameters, the ULURP process, and throughout the construction of the new affordable housing building.
- Site planning that will integrate the existing NYCHA facilities with the new affordable housing building and incorporate design guidelines to increase the bulk and number of units in the new building while also providing adequate light and air for existing and new residents.
- The renovation of the currently inaccessible community room, as well as the construction of a community room in the new affordable housing building that will be open to all residents of the Harborview Campus.
- A ground lease for the new affordable housing building, with the income funding repairs and capital improvements in the Harborview Site
- A building program that will:
 - not include any market rate units
 - maximize the number of affordable units
 - require that 50% be two bedroom units
 - establish a 50% Community Preference and a 25% NYCHA preference for the lottery, and expand the Community District 4 NYCHA preference to include the nearby Amsterdam Houses located in Community District 7.
 - Establish a minimum compliance with the Enterprise Green Communities Program
 - Ban smoking
 - Allow pets

Harborview Campus Open Space Design Recommendations - 2015

The working group reconvened in 2015 and arrived at the following preliminary recommendations regarding open space:

- *Master plan for open space* that will include improved open space design for specific age demographics including:
 - Adults and the elderly (seating, easy access);
 - Teenagers
 - School-age children
 - Toddlers (adjacent to school age playground)
- *Open space improvements* – The RFP should provide parameters for improvements to the existing open spaces on the Harborview campus, all of which are to be done by the developer that is awarded the RFP.

- *Existing trees* - The RFP should provide for one-for-one replacement of the eleven existing trees within the Harborview campus.
- *Playground* – The Harborview Tenants Association has agreed to relocate and/or reconfigure the playground as long as the new space is equivalent or larger in size.
- *Additional funding* - Manhattan Borough President Brewer and Councilmember Rosenthal have been asked to provide additional funding for Harborview Campus open space redevelopment and both have indicated they would consider such a request.

Delving deeper into open space needs on the existing Harborview Site, the Harborview Working Group arrived at the following design recommendations.

- ***Children’s Playground*** – a newly designed playground with a water feature, along with a children’s play area near the Senior Building, on the south side of West 55th Street.
- ***Flexible Plaza*** – a multi-purpose space that can be used for community events, including Harborview Tenants’ Family Day, as well as for outdoor movies. The working group expressed a desire for power outlets to service the area, as well as a water fountain and lighting.
- ***Planted Gardens*** – year-round plants and flowers that will beautify the open space
- ***Seating Areas*** – seating for groups larger than four people, with special consideration for strollers and wheelchair users. The Working Group also noted the need for shaded seating areas, especially for seniors.
- ***Safety*** – Tenants emphasized the need for safety. Their safety requests were as follows:
 - ***A mid-block crosswalk with a speed table.*** Although the site is located midblock and extends across West 55th Street, there is currently no traffic infrastructure to ensure the safety of the many pedestrians who travel between the Family Building and the Senior Building.
 - ***Improved outdoor lighting.*** This will allow residents to be better aware of their surroundings and will help to discourage inappropriate activity.
- ***Maintenance*** – regular maintenance is key to preserving the vitality of the open space.

Conclusion

MCB4 is pleased to learn that the residents of Harborview have continued to be active participants in the community planning process for the RFP. The Board feels confident in supporting the open space design recommendations outlined above, as they reflect thoughtful discussions about how to ensure that the new development on the site will incorporate residents and offer them a broad range of benefits. We look forward to working with HPD in developing an RFP that prioritizes the community’s and Harborview residents’ needs.

Sincerely,



Delores Rubin
MCB4 Chair



[Signed 2/18/16]
Barbara Davis, Co-Chair
Housing, Health &
Human Services Committee

Joe Restuccia, Co-Chair
Housing, Health &
Human Services Committee

Cc: Assembly Member L. Rosenthal
Council Member H. Rosenthal
Borough President G. Brewer
State Senator B. Hoylman
Thehbia Walters, HPD
NYCHA
Maria Guzman, Harborview Tenant Association
S. Desmond, Housing Conservation Coordinators
J. Lawrence, Clinton Housing Development Company



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JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

July 11, 2008

Hon. Amanda M. Burden, AICP
Chair
City Planning Commission
22 Reade Street
New York, New York 10007

Re: Harborview Affordable Housing Development – 513 West 55th Street and 520 West 56th Street - Application Numbers C080400ZSM, C080401ZSM, N080402ZAM, N080403ZAM, M080404HDM, M080405ZAM¹

Dear Chair Burden:

At its regular monthly meeting on June 4, 2008, Manhattan Community Board No. 4 held a duly noticed public hearing on the six applications referenced above. The following comments and resolutions were approved by a roll call vote of 38 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 1 present but not eligible to vote. (Our resolutions on the individual applications begin on page 9.)

The applications relate to development of affordable housing on the “NYCHA Harborview Site” pursuant to the Hudson Yards Points of Agreement and the West Side Sites Request for Proposals issued by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (“HPD”) and the New York City Housing Authority (“NYCHA”) on December 7, 2006.

SUMMARY ULURP RESPONSE

As discussed in detail below, we recommend disapproval of four of these applications because of fundamental defects in the proposed affordable housing development program:

- The commitment to the Clinton/Hell’s Kitchen community was that this site would be used primarily for permanently affordable housing for moderate and middle income families. That commitment is not being kept.

¹ It is impossible to tell from the Land Use Review Application form which number goes with which requested action.

- Market-rate units should not be built on land acquired by NYCHA for affordable housing.
- The proposed use of the inclusionary housing bonus is inappropriate.

THE ULURP APPLICATIONS ARE PREMATURE

For the first time since 1982, this Board finds itself in sharp disagreement with HPD over an affordable housing development. Unfortunately, there has been very little engagement with the Board about the developer's response to the RFP and no opportunity to resolve these differences. We have a long public record of support for a wide variety of affordable housing developments. We welcome well-sited affordable housing developments, by responsive developers, including housing for homeless and special needs populations, which are often contentious and rejected by other communities. But successful development must be planned carefully, in consultation with all stakeholders.

We are baffled that these applications are proceeding through ULURP at this time. The proposed development was first presented to our Housing Health and Human Services Committee on March 18, 2008. At that meeting, substantial questions were raised about the project's affordable housing program, which is dramatically different from the program we expected based on the affordable housing commitments made in connection with the Hudson Yards rezoning. We specifically requested that the ULURP process not begin until there had been further consideration of the housing program. Holly Leicht, Deputy Commissioner of Development for the Department of Housing Preservation and Development indicated, at the end of the meeting, that HPD and NYCHA would pursue further discussions with CB4 regarding the affordable housing program before certification of the ULURP applications. Our concerns were then summarized in our letter to you, HPD and NYCHA dated April 2, 2008. In contacting HPD subsequently, the Board was informed that continuing discussions between HPD and NYCHA were underway. We were therefore flabbergasted to learn on May 5th that the applications were being certified that very day, having been filed with DCP on April 28th, only 7 days earlier.

The applications reveal the haste in which they were filed and are incomplete and lacking in necessary detail. Supporting documentation is missing. We have received notices that 3 of the applications have been certified², but have not received any communication from DCP about public review of the other 3 applications, even though they are all contained in the same Land Use Review Application.

Negotiations have now begun in earnest between this Board, HPD, NYCHA and the developer, -- a process that should have begun months ago, and that has been this Board's and HPD's tried and true process. The applications should be withdrawn due to the incomplete and inaccurate information, and resubmitted only after an agreement is reached on a housing development plan that is more consistent with prior and often stated community needs.

² We have received Notices of Certification for C080400ZSM, C080401ZSM and C080404HDM (sic). On the application form this last application number is M080404HDM

However, having received the 3 Notices of Certification, we feel compelled to respond to all of the applications so as not to forfeit our opportunity to provide public comment.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

These applications request six actions to facilitate the development of two new residential buildings with a total of 342 residential units on property in the Clinton Urban Renewal Area (“CURA”) that is currently owned by NYCHA and is subject to a Large Scale Residential Development Plan (LSRD) that was approved by the Board of Estimate in 1972. The developer selected by NYCHA for this project is Atlantic Development Group.

The proposed site is a through-block parcel over the Amtrak cut between West 55th and 56th Streets and Tenth and Eleventh Avenues. It is currently part of Harborview Terrace, and was intended in the LSRD to be developed with a 10 story turnkey public housing project containing 67 units. The site is now used as a parking lot for tenants of Harborview Terrace, 2 basketball courts and a passive recreation area.

The North Building, on 56th Street, would be 14 stories tall and would include approximately 148 units for low-income senior citizens with incomes between 61% and 80% of Area Median Income, developed under the City’s Inclusionary Housing Program. As such, it would generate more than 400,000 square feet of bonus development rights for use elsewhere in the Special Clinton District.

The South Building, on 55th Street, would be 15 stories tall and would, according to information presented by Atlantic, include 122 market rate units and 72 moderate- and middle-income units for households making between 81% and 165% of Area Median Income.

A 47-space accessory parking garage is proposed for the ground floors of both buildings, with 22 spaces permanently reserved for the residents of Harborview Terrace, to replace the spaces now in the parking lot. The roof of the garage between the two new buildings would be landscaped open space for the exclusive use of the tenants of the new buildings.

To summarize, the proposed affordable housing development program consists of:

- 148 low income units (inclusionary housing units)
- 72 moderate and middle income units
- 122 market rate units

- 342 total units

THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM – Site History, the Hudson Yards Affordable Housing Negotiations and the Board’s Position

History of the Site

The project site was condemned by the City in 1969, when the CURA was created, for use as affordable housing. Pursuant to the August 1972 LSRD application, two turnkey public housing projects “consisting of large family units” were planned for parcel 1 (which includes the project site) – a 19 story (234 unit) building and a separate 10 story (67 unit) building. One NYCHA building on parcel 1 was completed, but the 10 story public housing development was never developed. The entire parcel was transferred by the City to a turnkey developer, Neighborhood Developers Inc. on April 24, 1975 and by Neighborhood Developers, Inc. to NYCHA on June 23, 1977, when construction was complete. A Land Disposition Agreement recorded with the deed on April 24, 1975 restricts the use of the site “to and only to and in accordance with the uses specified in the Urban Renewal Plan.”

In 1985, the site was identified as part the Clinton Preservation Local Development Corporation’s master plan for CURA as a site for development of family housing. The Board supported that plan. In 1999, when a broad coalition of community groups came together to advance affordable housing development in the CURA, the site was again identified for the development of family housing.

Hudson Yards Affordable Housing Negotiations – the Points of Agreement and the Request for Proposals

The creation of affordable housing was our top priority for the Hell’s Kitchen/Hudson Yards rezoning. From 2002 to 2005, the Board actively negotiated with the Mayor’s office regarding the number of mitigation measures. The most complex and difficult negotiations centered around affordable housing. The end result was a package that allowed the Mayor and the City Council to declare that 28% of the total number of planned housing units for Hudson Yards would be affordable. The package included zoning mechanisms for development by the private sector, and commitments by the public sector of public land and public funding. The NYCHA Harborview Site was one of 13 public sites identified by the Board as possible locations for affordable housing. After lengthy negotiation with HPD, and HPD in turn with NYCHA, the project site was included as one of 3 public sites in the Hudson Yards affordable housing package.³

The Board had initially proposed that the public sites be used for the lowest income housing. But we soon realized that the zoning mechanisms being proposed for the private sector (Inclusionary Housing coupled with enhancement of the 80/20 financing program) would produce an abundance of low income housing on privately owed sites. It was therefore agreed, somewhat counter-intuitively, that the public sites would be

³ The other sites are “Site M” on the west side of Tenth Avenue between 40th and 41st Streets and the “Studio City/PS 51 Site” between 44th and 45th Streets and Tenth and Eleventh Avenues

reserved for moderate and middle income housing. The City would provide the land and a public subsidy and a private developer would be chosen through a competitive process.

The City's commitments for affordable housing were embodied in the "Points of Agreement" between the Administration and the City Council in January 2005. The Points of Agreement anticipate that the NYCHA Harborview Site will generate 155 permanently affordable units, including 63 low income units (up to 60% of AMI), 46 moderate income units (up to 135% AMI) and 46 middle income units (up to 165% of AMI).

The NYCHA Harborview Site was included in HPD's West Side Sites Request for Proposals, issued on December 7, 2006⁴. As the RFP was being prepared, the Board held a series of public meetings, which were attended by representatives of HPD and NYCHA, to develop community consensus on the programs for each of the sites. In those meetings, the community's overall concern was to maximize the production of housing for moderate- and middle-income **families**, since the market was producing low-income studios and one-bedroom units throughout CD4.

We understand that Atlantic Development Group was selected as the developer for the NYCHA Harborview site in the late summer or fall of 2007, but Atlantic's proposal was not presented to the community until the meeting of our Housing Health and Human Services Committee on March 18, 2008. The community's opposition to the proposal, summarized in our letter to you dated April 2, 2008, was resounding. Despite public assurances from HPD that differences would be worked out prior to filing, there was no further discussion of Atlantic's affordable housing proposal before the ULURP applications were filed and certified.

Until this point, the Board has considered itself a partner with HPD in identifying, conceiving and bringing this project to fruition. It is an affordable housing development the Board wants to see realized, but not in this manner.

The Board's Position on the Proposed Harborview Affordable Housing Program

The proposed affordable housing program presented to the joint meeting of CB4's Clinton/Hell's Kitchen Land Use and Zoning and the Housing, Health and Human Services committees on May 14, 2008, does not meet the Board's affordable housing goals, fails to meet the requirements of the Points of Agreement and is not consistent with the 1975 Land Disposition Agreement deed restriction, as follows:

- **Minimal Production of Moderate and Middle Income Housing for Families** -- Under the Points of Agreement, the City committed to create predominantly moderate and middle income units on this site, with a minimum of 155 units. The project as proposed generates only 72 moderate and middle income units. The Harborview site must maximize not minimize the number of moderate and middle

⁴ The two other sites in the RFP resulted from the affordable housing commitments in the West Chelsea rezoning.

income units. In addition, the majority of the proposed affordable housing units are studios and one bedroom apartments. Those unit sizes are already being produced in disproportionate amounts by the private sector through the Inclusionary Housing and 80/20 programs. The consistently-stated community need for family-size units must be a base requirement at this site.

- **Building Market-Rate Units on NYCHA Land is a Slippery Slope** – Market-rate units should not be built on NYCHA owned land. The stated reason for production of market-rate units is the need to produce revenue for NYCHA’s operating purposes. This policy shift, in the name of preserving public housing, is a slippery slope at best. The sale of scarce resource, publicly owned land, whether or not controlled by a public authority, to fund operating deficits does not make financial sense. It is quick one-time fix in an attempt to remedy a structural financial problem. Decisions made for Harborview, to include market-rate units, will be precedent setting for the entire NYCHA housing inventory citywide.

In the case of this particular site, on the CURA, the project will not conform to the requirements of the 1975 Land Disposition Agreement. The project site was condemned for affordable housing. The deed restriction requires that any use be in compliance with the Clinton Urban Renewal Plan. The plan specifies that “approximately one third of the new apartments will be for low income families with the *remaining* units for families of moderate income (emphasis added).” The covenant is still in effect and does not expire until October 24, 2009. Market-rate units are simply not appropriate on this public site, in a neighborhood where the private sector is producing market units at a rapid pace.

- **Housing mitigation for Hudson Yards should not produce more density and less affordable housing in the Special Clinton District** -- The commitment for affordable housing offsite from the Hudson Yards rezoning area was to mitigate the impact on the Clinton/Hell’s Kitchen community of the enormous bulk to be developed in the Hudson Yards, the densest zoning district in the City. The use of the public sites for affordable housing would help maintain the economic diversity of the community and to offset the anticipated large number of new market-rate units to be developed Hudson Yards.

The linchpin of the proposed project’s financing is the sale of Inclusionary Housing development rights, which will generate 400,000 square feet of new development in the Special Clinton District. That choice raises the following issues:

- How can a development meant to mitigate bulk resulting from the Hudson Yards rezoning generate bulk equivalent to the Victory Tower on 41st Street and 10th Avenue?
- Why are we using the Harborview public site to replace private sites which the private market would have had to acquire to produce

Inclusionary Housing needed for bonusing market rate housing? In fact, why subsidize the private Inclusionary Housing market with a public site?

- Why concentrate Inclusionary Housing next to other affordable housing in the CURA? Why not let it be included throughout the community, whether within the market rate buildings developed, or on scattered sites acquired by market rate developers?
- Don't we have a net loss of production of affordable housing by using Harborview for Inclusionary Housing? If Harborview were developed without Inclusionary Housing, the private sector would meet its Inclusionary need on other private sites, thus increasing the total supply of affordable housing.

The Board simply cannot support the use of the Harborview site for Inclusionary Housing. It is not double dipping, but triple dipping for the same site—Hudson Yards mitigation, use of scarce public site for affordable housing, and creating development rights to benefit several other sites in the Special Clinton Zoning District.

- **Senior Housing is a Right Choice on the Wrong Site**--The Clinton/Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea community welcomes senior housing. Indeed, we recently celebrated completion of the Encore Senior Residence at 755 10th Avenue with 84 units for low income seniors – a development on the CURA for which this Board advocated for years. One of the existing Harborview buildings in the LSRD has 195 units of low-income senior housing across 55th Street from the proposed development. The proposed developer has attempted to portray the Board and the Clinton/Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea community as opposed to senior housing. Given the Board's 30-year record of supporting all types of affordable housing, we can only conclude that their due diligence on the community's goals and concerns, was inadequate.

Senior housing, like all other affordable housing, must be integrated throughout the community, not built on a site reserved for moderate and middle income family housing.

Further, the income band for the proposed senior housing is at 80% AMI, an income band that most of our seniors fall well below. A project with the same financing structure and income bands was developed by this developer on West End Avenue and 61st Street. We understand that that project experienced severe delays in rent up, because of a lack of income-eligible seniors, notwithstanding a citywide lottery.

DEFECTIVE ULURP DOCUMENTATION

The application materials received from the Department of City Planning reveal a number of apparent defects. We are surprised that the applications were certified in this form.

1. Agency Co-Applicants--The application is signed by HPD as co-applicant, but HPD is not listed as a co-applicant in Item 1. Is HPD a co-applicant or not?
2. Disposition of Property--The application form indicates that disposition of real property is one of the requested actions, yet that action is not described in the Project Description. The Property Disposition section of the application form indicates that the intended disposition is from HPD to NYCHA, but NYCHA already owns the property. More importantly, the application does not explain how the property will be disposed of to the selected developer. Isn't ULURP required for this action?
3. Detailed Program for Relocation and Improvement to Common Open Space--The Negative Declaration states that the selected developer has agreed to relocate the existing playground to a location specified by NYCHA and to landscape and improve the existing walkway between the proposed development and the existing Harborview Terrace building for use by NYCHA through a permanent easement, yet no information is provided about implementation of these commitments. Plans for relocation of the playground and for landscaping, lighting and improving the areas between the development site and the existing Harborview Terrace building must be developed in consultation with this board and the residents of Harborview Terrace before construction begins. Those plans must include more than just relocating the existing playground and landscaping the walkway; care must be taken to integrate and modernize all of the open space, especially considering that the development will permanently displace a large amount of open recreational space.
4. Existing and Proposed Site Plans for the LSRD--The current LSRD is proposed to be updated to reflect development of the new buildings, but neither the current LSRD nor the proposed change is provided. What we have is a letter from the City's Housing and Development Administration to the City Planning Commission dated August 3, 1972 transmitting the LSRD and requesting CPC's "expeditious action." The application indicates that the LSRD was approved by the CPC on October 11, 1972. The transmittal letter is file-stamped to indicate it was subject to approval by the Board of Estimate. Since changes may have been made in the LSRD between its transmittal to CPC and approval by the Board of Estimate, the LSRD approved by the Board of Estimate must be provided.⁵ In addition, the proposed change in the LSRD must be provided in graphic form.

⁵ HPD did provide us with a copy of a Board of Estimate resolution which, upon examination, is the resolution for the zoning actions required for the adjacent Clinton Towers development based on CP-22119. The resolution concerning the LSRD is based on CP-22113.

5. Zoning Lot Subdivision Requirements Under 78-50--The application makes no reference to ZR Section 78-50 concerning subdivision of large-scale residential developments. Parcel 1 of the LSRD is proposed to be subdivided into two zoning lots, and the requirements of Section 78-50 must be met.
6. Modification of 1975 Disposition Authorization--The 1975 authorization by the Board of Estimate for disposition of Parcels 1 and 4 pursuant to the Clinton Urban Renewal Plan is proposed to be modified, but neither the authorization nor the proposed modification is provided.
7. Inclusion of Clinton Towers as part of the LSRD--The August 1972 application for the LSRD, which is purported to be the application approved by the Board of Estimate on October 11, 1972, included 4 parcels on the northern portion of the Clinton Urban Renewal Area. A portion of the 7 story extension of the existing Clinton Towers development on block 1083, lot 1, falls within the boundary of the LSRD; however the property owner, Clinton Towers Housing Co. is not included as a co-applicant, nor are the details of that development, including the number of dwelling units, development s.f. and open space s.f. specified in the application. Without this information, it is not possible to assess the modifications requested to the LSRD. We also believe that Clinton Towers Housing Co. must approve the applications, yet there is no indication that such approval has been obtained.

THE APPLICATIONS

With the ULURP clock running, CB4 has nonetheless carefully reviewed the six land use applications in light of the concerns expressed above and based on the development program described in the application. Our recommendations are as follows:

- 1. Authorizations pursuant to ZR Section 78-311 to distribute floor area, dwelling units and open space without regard to zoning lot lines and to modify height and setback regulations within the LSRD.**
- 2. Special permit pursuant to ZR Section 78-312 to modify height and setback regulations on the periphery of the LSRD.**

The proposed development site is part of Parcel 1 in the LSRD. The balance of Parcel 1 is occupied by the existing Harborview Terrace NYCHA building. The LSRD includes two other parcels: Parcel 4, which is also owned by NYCHA and is occupied by the Harborview Terrace senior building, and Parcel 3, which is owned by Clinton Towers Housing Co.

When Parcel 1 is subdivided, as planned, into two zoning lots, the proposed development on Parcel 1A would place 31% more floor area and 27% more dwelling units on the development site than are allowed by zoning, and would provide 57% less open space than is required. The requested authorizations would allow those differences because the other parcels in the LSRD have "leftovers." Specifically, 60,878.58 square feet of floor

area would be reallocated from Parcels 1B and 4; Parcel 1B has 188 fewer dwelling units than zoning allows and 73 of those would be allocated to Parcel 1A; and Parcels 1B and 4 together have 22,524 more square feet of open space than is required and 10,538 square feet of that open space would “count toward” the open space requirement on Parcel 1A. As noted above, it still must be confirmed that these numbers accurately reflect the built conditions of the existing Harborview Terrace and Clinton Towers buildings.

Modest modifications are requested for the setbacks required along the street and the rear yard, and for the sky exposure plane.

If the proposed buildings were to contain an acceptable affordable housing program, the numbers are confirmed to be accurate, and the remaining open space is carefully planned, the proposed distributions and modifications could be justified and the required findings could be made. The proposed distributions and modifications result in buildings that exceed the requirements and limitations by a small amount, and the scale and shape of the proposed buildings are not overwhelming. However, since the affordable housing program is so far from what we consider acceptable and, the project, as presented, will generate an additional 400,000 s.f of bulk elsewhere in the Special Clinton District, we cannot recommend approval of the authorizations for the proposed development.

In addition, we note that the open space in the LSRD is now generally available to all residents. The proposed application restricts the use of the open space to residents of the new development and circumvents the intent of the LSRD to share open space over a larger area. The proposed open space should be accessible to all LSRD residents.

Finally, we are pleased to note that the exposed eastern ends of both new buildings would be entirely finished with brick. We request that similar treatment be given to the western ends of the buildings, since they will rise above the 5 story adjacent building.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that CB4 recommends disapproval of the authorizations pursuant to ZR Section 78-311 and the special permit pursuant to ZR Section 78-312 unless the following conditions are met:

- Housing Program
 - Both buildings are developed as predominantly family buildings for moderate and middle income families earning between 125% and 165% AMI. The allocation between the income groups is flexible, depending on financing considerations. The community is willing to consider one of the buildings as a moderate and middle income cooperative, provided resale restrictions are put in place to eliminate windfall profits and maintain permanent affordability through deed restrictions.
 - If a senior housing component is required for financing or sponsor purposes, it is be limited to no more than 20% of the units in one building and be fully integrated throughout that building.

- The project does not create Inclusionary Housing development rights to be used within the Special Clinton Zoning District
- Permanence of the agreed levels of affordability is assured by deed restriction;
- All residential units in the proposed development have the same finishes and access to building amenities and affordable units are evenly distributed throughout each building;
- A deed restriction, specifying the number of permanently affordable units, by unit size and income band, is a condition of the property disposition;
- Apartments are made available through lottery, with a 50% community preference;
- The open space is made accessible to all LSRD residents;
- Plans for relocation of the playground and for landscaping, lighting and improving the areas between the development site and the existing Harborview Terrace building have been developed in consultation with this board and the residents of Harborview Terrace;
- The development uses design and construction methods and methods of operation that will achieve a high degree of environmental sustainability, including meeting or exceeding the standards for U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy Design (LEED) Silver certification; and
- Plans for temporary relocation of parking to Parcel 4 during construction and a restoration plan for Parcel 4 open space after construction have been developed in consultation with this board and the residents of Harborview Terrace.

3. Authorization pursuant to ZR Section 78-41 to relocate existing required accessory parking spaces.

The ground floor of the proposed new buildings would contain a parking garage with 47 accessory parking spaces, accessible from entrances on 55th and 56th streets. The garage would be unattended, accessible by residents using a card key and monitored from the front desks of the new buildings by camera. The application states that 22 of the parking spaces will be permanently reserved for residents of Harborview Terrace and that 8 of the required 30 spaces are on Parcel 1B and will not be affected by the proposed development. This information is incorrect. All of the existing spaces are currently located on Parcel 1A. The application must be modified to request authorization to locate all 30 required spaces on Parcel 1A to ensure compliance with NYCHA's requirement that Harborview Terrace have 30 parking spaces.

Harborview Terrace residents have expressed concern about two aspects of this parking plan: security in an unattended enclosed garage, especially at night, and the fact that residential garbage will be collected and stored in the garage, attracting vermin. Both of these concerns must be addressed.

Because the site is in the Clinton Urban Renewal Area, which is excluded from the Special Clinton District, the accessory parking is as-of-right and does not require the special permit required for accessory parking in the Special Clinton District.

When Parcel 1 of the LSRD is subdivided, as planned, into two zoning lots, the parking spaces for Harborview Terrace will be on a different zoning lot, authorization for which is required by ZR Section 78-41. We have reviewed and do not disagree with the application's statement of the findings required for this authorization.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that CB4 recommends approval of the authorization pursuant to ZR Section 78-41, with the following conditions:

- The garage must be made safe and secure for the residents of Harborview Terrace as well as for the residents of the new buildings;
- Garbage must be stored and handled so as to minimize adverse effects in the parking areas; and
- 30 spaces must be permanently reserved by deed restriction for the residents of Harborview Terrace.

4. Minor modification to the existing LSRD site plan

As noted above, the application contains no detail about the requested modification, noting only that it “would update the site plan to reflect the development of the New Buildings.”

The modification should be made only for a development that conforms to the requirements of the LSRD (which specifies that Parcel 1 is to be developed with large family units) and provides an acceptable affordable housing program, as discussed above.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that CB4 recommends disapproval of the modification to the existing LSRD site plan unless the following conditions are met:

- It is determined what the existing site plan is;
- The requested modification is graphically presented; and
- The conditions set forth above with respect to the resolution for applications 1 and 2 are met.

5. Special permit pursuant to ZR Section 74-681 to allow for development over the Amtrak right-of-way

The Amtrak right-of-way runs through the development site and is already covered by a permanent platform. Development above this platform requires a special permit pursuant to ZR Section 78-41. We have reviewed and do not disagree with the application's statement of the findings required for this authorization.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that CB4 recommends approval of the authorization pursuant to ZR Section 78-41.

6. Modification of prior disposition pursuant to the Clinton Urban Renewal Plan

As noted above, the application contains no detail about the requested modification, noting only that it "would modify the 1975 approval to reflect the parcels as constructed and to authorize the development of the New Buildings."


The modification should be made only for a development that conforms to the requirements of the LSRD (which specifies that Parcel 1 is to be developed with large family units) and provides an acceptable affordable housing program, as discussed above.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that CB4 recommends disapproval of the modification of the prior disposition unless the following conditions are met:

- The requested modification is presented in writing; and
- The conditions set forth above with respect to the resolution for applications 1 and 2 are met.

Thank you for considering our comments. Despite our profound concerns about the current development proposal, we are hopeful that through continued discussions with HPD and NYCHA the proposal can be modified to meet the needs of the community and the other stakeholders. We look forward to continuing the ULURP process with a project we can support.

Sincerely,


Jean-Daniel Noland
Chair

[signed on July 11, 2008]
Sarah Desmond
Co-Chair Housing, Health &
Human Services Committee


Anna Hayes Levin, Chair
Clinton/Hell's Kitchen Land Use Committee


Joe Restuccia
Co-Chair Housing, Health &
Human Services Committee

cc: NYCHA – Ilene Popkin
HPD – Holly Leicht, Ruth Anne Viznauskas
DCP – Erika Selke
Atlantic Development – Marc Altheim, Charles Brass
Council Speaker Christine Quinn
Councilmember Gale Brewer
City Council Land Use Division – Danielle DeCerbo
Congressman Jerrold Nadler
Senator Thomas Duane
Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal
Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer
Manhattan Borough President’s Office – Mike Kent
Clinton Towers Housing Co. – Mary D’Elia



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

ROBERT K. STEEL
DEPUTY MAYOR FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

July 31, 2013

Speaker Christine Quinn
The New York City Council
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Council Member Gale A. Brewer
563 Columbus Avenue
New York, NY 10024


Dear Speaker Quinn & Council Member Brewer:

I am writing to you in regards to our continued work to create and preserve affordable housing within your district. Working with the Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD) and the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), the administration is pleased to inform you that we will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) by December 31, 2013 for the development of affordable housing on the "NYCHA Harborview Site" located at 56th Street just west of 11th Avenue. It is anticipated that the site will generate 155 affordable units.

HPD and NYCHA commit to including 63 low-income units (up to 60% of AMI), 46 moderate income units (up to 135% of AMI) and 46 middle income units (up to 165% of AMI). All units will be permanently affordable. HPD and NYCHA shall brief and consult Manhattan Community Board 4, the Harborview Tenants Association, the Manhattan Borough President and your offices prior to the release of the RFP.

Thank you for your continued partnership in working to meet our goals of creating or preserving affordable housing throughout New York City.

Sincerely,


Robert K. Steel