

## *Harlem Piers, Economic Development & Waterfront Committee Minutes, January 24, 2006*

At the December, 2005 meeting the regularly scheduled meeting for the first Tuesday in January was changed to January 24<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, EDC Waterfront called to say that they did not have all of the information that they wanted to present and asked that they be scheduled for the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting instead. EDC Real Estate and Citarella called to say that they had forgotten the change of dates and asked to be excused from this meeting.

**Citarella:** Citarella and The Bluestone Corporation arranged a 4-hour tour of Bluestone developments in Central Harlem. Members of the committee were able to see actual apartment buildings and town houses as well as to speak with the current tenants and owners. Citarella prepared an excellent box lunch for members of the tour.

Members of the Committee asked Citarella to inform us of other developers that they considered before choosing The Bluestone Corporation and they said that they would supply this information at our February meeting. The Board has input into the selection of a developer for this project through this Committee. It was decided that a draft letter would be prepared, by the Committee, for presentation to the Executive Board after the February meeting.

In the past several ideas were proposed for the Taustee Bread Factory in addition to housing. The Committee Chair asked the members to consider the type and amount of retail space, the specific use of "community space", etc. so that when a developer comes to us we will be able to offer constructive suggestions and input. Members of the committee asked Bluestone Corporation to come back with some scenarios and ideas after going through our 197-A Plan. Housing issues and the lower than citywide income levels in Board 9 must also be addressed in development thoughts for the project.

**Harlem Piers:** We expect that EDC will have solved the problem with the contractor and will have a signed agreement so that work on the Piers may begin. The Committee Chair asked members to give considerable thought as to how the Pier operation will be supported. For the March meeting members have requested that EDC bring back the design sketches and sample materials so that we can visually refresh our memories.

Helen Chin of WEAFT informed us of the draft agenda for their upcoming transportation roundtable on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. In the first portion EDC Alyssa Cobb-Konon will present their recommendations for the Harlem Piers Area and then the panel would speak to their area as it pertains to the recommendations. State DOT has agreed to this meeting, the City DOT has not signed on. Dept of City Planning has agreed to participate and is identifying who will represent them, Edwin Marshall or Ray Gaskel. MTA, specifically Metro North Division, has been reluctant to sign-on. She stated that the elected representatives from our area have been invited to attend but not necessarily be on the dais. It was suggested that the City Council committee that deals with transportation, specifically the Chair of that committee be invited. Also it was stated that the consultant team working on streetscaping the western portion of 125<sup>th</sup> Street be invited.

The second portion of the forum will be a question and answer session.

Next meeting is March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006