

Minutes  
Harlem Piers, Economic Development  
and Waterfront Committee  
September 8, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 and a change to the agenda to allow the representative from Citarella to speak first was approved.

Mr. John Carbo, of Citarella, Inc. stated that they no longer intend to develop the property West 126<sup>th</sup> Street between Convent and Amsterdam Avenues. They are now asking what the community would like to see done with the property. This property represents two-thirds of the city block on 126<sup>th</sup> Street. When asked where the money to build would come from Mr. Carbo qualified his statement by saying it would have to be within reason.

Mr. Carbo was asked to provide a letter to the Board regarding this matter and he stated that he could not since he was not the owner of the company. Members of the Board asked about the jobs that were promised the community and Mr. Carbo stated that there were only going to be a very few jobs since the company was not building an additional facility but closing one and opening it in another location. This meant that they would bring most of their original employees here with them.

It appears that Citarella is willing to invest in the property as long as they can continue to control it and profit from future development. This is not the basis on which the sale was made. It was stated that by someone at the meeting that they had broken agreement for ownership of the property and therefore the property revert to the City for future disposition.

It was decided that the owner of Citarella, Mr. Joe Guerra be asked to attend the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, in person, to share his plans with the committee.

NYC Economic Development Corp. has informed us that in order to meet the concerns of the Dept. of Fisheries and obtain a permit from the Army Corp of Engineers, they have submitted a proposal to address the problem of the planned piers covering too much of the water and thus intruding on the natural habitat of the fish. As a result of this problem, no work was done on the piers this summer because the Army Corp of Engineers has not given a permit for work to begin.

What they have proposed is placing two hundred Sixty Five (265) pilling into the Harlem Piers water front that would stick out of the water during high tide and be more obvious during low tide. This would cost an additional \$600,000 to \$800,000. It was clearly stated that this solution was not discussed with the Board and is completely unacceptable to the Board and the community.

EDC will give an update on the project at our October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Respectfully submitted by

Maritta Dunn