

Update – Friday, May 23, 2008

- Please excuse duplication and cross-posting
- Permission granted to duplicate the message below in its entirety
- Please forward to other community stakeholders!

State Senator Perkins and Elected Officials' Representatives Speak in Support of WPP Suit

Also below:

1. What good is an Environmental Review?

2. "What You Can Say at the BSA" with Attorney Jack Lester. Session Coming Up – Date in June to Be Announced

3. Would the Construction that's Already done really be Taken Down?

Elected Officials Speak Out at Thursday Meeting

After joining as a co-plaintiff in our suit last week, State Senator Bill Perkins spoke at the WPP meeting Thursday night, expressing his concern about "drastic impacts" to the community being wrought by the developers of the project, without any reason "other than money" for the developers and without the input of community stakeholders.

"Your cause is very important to me and my office," Senator Perkins said. "The massive scale of this [development] screams out for public participation. This is a signature movement that is not only for your benefit but to the benefit of the City."

Representatives from the offices of Congressman Charles Rangel and State Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell, who have also joined as co-plaintiffs along with City Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito, spoke in support of our lawsuit. Jessica Silver from Borough President Stringer's office stated her expectation that the Borough President would soon be able to join our district's elected representatives as a co-plaintiff.

What Good is an Environmental Review?

Community stakeholders attending the meeting asked many questions about an environmental review. An environmental review, which is required under City and State law, is an extensive, professionally prepared document that requires the full participation of our community and studies 20

factors that encompass all of the affects of new development upon the community. "This is not something the developers can just write themselves," said Paul Bunten, WPP president. After the review is done, the developers will have to address the impacts of its findings, "which could mean the entire project will have to be rethought from the ground up," Mr. Bunten said.

What Can We Say at the BSA?

Coming up in June, we will have a session with our attorney, Jack Lester, who will explain how all of the members of our community can participate effectively in the upcoming public hearings concerning our issue before the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA).

Would the Construction that's Already done really be Taken Down?

Questions were asked about whether the developers can be forced to remove all of the construction they are so hastily putting up. "The developers are on notice from DOB; they are building illegally and at their own risk," said Mr. Bunten. "Other developers who overstepped their bounds have had to re-plan after the community got involved. What goes up so quickly and hastily can easily come down just as quickly."

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The Commitment of Westsiders for Public Participation

FIRST: Assure every community stakeholder the legal right to public participation, in every decision that's made about the Park West Village community.

SECOND: Empower all community stakeholders by providing a focus for the contribution of services and funds in support of the Westsiders for Public Participation community legal action.

THIRD: Provide leadership and education to the communities of New York City who want to remain livable within the current climate of rapid urban growth, by working with community stakeholders to identify and exercise their rights to public participation.

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If you are a community stakeholder, and you want to participate in the outcome of the proposed "Columbus Village" development, please contact us at westsiders@earthlink.net!

Have a neighbor without email? Please print this and distribute a copy! We know your neighbor will appreciate it.

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Please add westsiders@earthlink.net to your address book and/or list of approved senders to be certain that you receive our messages into your inbox.

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