



Assemblymember
Walter T. Mosley
57th Assembly District



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Assemblyman Mosley Opposes 80 Flatbush Avenue Proposal

Brooklyn, NY – “While 80 Flatbush Avenue sits across the street, just outside of my District, I am gravely concerned over Alloy’s proposed development, and the negative impacts it would have on the entire borough of Brooklyn. I firmly stand behind my colleague, and neighbor Assembly Member Jo Ann Simon, in strongly opposing this project as it currently stands.

Located in Boerum Hill, surrounding the areas of Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Downtown Brooklyn, Brooklyn Heights, Gowanus, and Park Slope, this proposal would have significant impacts on the character and quality of life of residents in these aforementioned neighborhoods. The proposed towers, 38 and 74 stories respectively, would not only eliminate open space, adversely impacting local gardens, green spaces, and sight lines, it would also block the famous and iconic downtown Brooklyn Williamsburg Savings Bank Tower.

Moreover, of the proposed 920 housing units in both sites, only 200 would be “affordable”, of which the level of affordability will not be low enough for most families and Brooklynites who are in desperate need of housing. Alloy has argued that these towers are needed to address New York City’s housing crisis. This argument however misses the point because what we have is not a housing crisis, but rather an affordable housing crisis. In short, more developed units do not equate to more low-to-middle income families having a place to call home.

This project also calls for an unprecedented Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 18, tripling the allotted amount of 6, and would be the first domino to fall in a set of out-of-context, mass-scale development in quiet neighborhoods such as Boerum Hill. This sort of construction would be poor urban planning at best, and disregards contextual zoning put in place to maintain the character and quality of life of our neighborhood communities.

In addition, the pressures on traffic, transit and congestion would be exacerbated by years of construction and development, as we have seen with projects such as Atlantic Yards. This project would have a tremendous negative impact on the physical and social infrastructure, including the shortage of lower and middle school seats and overburdened transit, not to mention the effects of construction including noise/air pollution, and the inability to handle the massive amount of waste and excess environmental materials.

Lastly, I am extremely disappointed that the Education Construction Fund and Alloy would place the Khalil Gibran School in the middle of this proposal, as a bargaining chip to get the mass-scale development they want. The developer and ECF claim that the school’s building is in such poor shape that this development is necessary to provide Khalil Gibran students with a safer home. To this point I must say that there will be nothing safe about this school’s location when the area becomes a massive loading zone for construction and increased commercial traffic. Likewise, if schools need to be built, the City must take the lead, not private developers seeking profit.

Our community has expressed numerous concerns that have not been sufficiently addressed in the final Scope of Alloy’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). I strongly urge Alloy and ECF to work with the community to create a project that better serves its needs. As such, this proposal must be halted as it stands against everything our communities have fought so hard to preserve,” **said Assemblyman Mosley.**

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