

From: Jonathan Glazer <glazer101@gmail.com>
Date: July 10, 2017 at 4:06:36 PM EDT
To: KhalilGibran80Flatbush@schools.nyc.gov
Subject: 80 Flatbush Avenue Scoping Comments

Ms. Jennifer Maldonado, Executive Director
New York City Educational Construction Fund
30-30 Thomson Avenue, Fourth Floor
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Ms. Maldonado:

As a Boerum Hill resident who will be directly affected by the proposed 80 Flatbush development, I am writing to you regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the project.

In general, the scope of the DEIS is far too narrow to accurately measure the potential impact these building will have on the local Boerum Hill community. Over the last ten years, this section of Boerum Hill has experienced a radical transformation of its "backyard." Within a very small radius of the site, the Barclay's Center and multiple high rise building have been constructed resulting in frequent and significant disruption of the neighborhood's quality of life. Construction noise and debris, changes in traffic patterns with their increased congestion and threats to pedestrian safety, littered streets, drug use and sales by construction workers, and scarcity of street parking are all by-products of these developments. Previous EIS studies associated with Barclay's arena and the 2004 Downtown Brooklyn zoning plan ignored these very predictable outcomes and neither the New York City government or the private developers responsible for these conditions have sought to redress them. The proposed DEIS makes no effort to take these currently unacceptable conditions into consideration in the scope of work as it is currently construed.

Specifically, the methodology employed in the traffic section of Task 11-Transportation is woefully inadequate. Having traffic counters at various intersections on random days is the equivalent of announcing a flood watch on a day when it isn't raining. Following the closing of the northbound 4th Avenue/Flatbush Avenue intersection and the rerouting of that traffic onto 3rd Avenue has created extreme congestion when certain conditions exist. These conditions include construction or crane activity, traffic accidents, and prolonged duration of delivery trucks along that corridor among others. In the presence of these conditions, the safe and quiet neighborhood streets are transformed into a noisy, aggressive and hostile environment. Frustrated drivers flaunt traffic laws and endanger the lives of pedestrians, including the many local residents who are elderly or require walking assistance. Any EIS that does not document these "flood like" conditions will not be able to faithfully consider the further impact the construction and occupation of 80 Flatbush will have on the neighborhood. Given that this project includes an elementary school, failure to do so would be tantamount to professional negligence on the part of ECF, Alloy and AKRF.

In addition to not incorporating the neighborhood's history, the DEIS is also ignoring the future impact the recently constructed buildings in downtown Brooklyn, both within and just outside the 400-foot study area, will have on Boerum Hill once they are occupied. These changes could take place after the completion of the EIS but before the 80 Flatbush project has even broken ground. Downtown Brooklyn is a moving target and the scope of the DEIS must make a far more serious effort to reflect that reality.

To ensure that EIS process is legitimate and both responsive and responsible to the concerns of the neighborhood, I recommend that all work on the DEIS be put on hold until a more appropriate scope of work has been determined.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Glazer