

North Brooklyn Tenant Anti-Displacement Collaborative

c/o North Brooklyn Development Corporation

147 Huron Street

Brooklyn, New York 11222

Williamsburg-Greenpoint Community Leaders to Protest City's "Breach of Faith" in Cutting Waterfront Rezoning Anti-Displacement Funding

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Leaders of virtually every major North Brooklyn housing group will join Councilmembers Diana Reyna and David Yassky on the steps of City Hall (Tuesday, December 9, 2pm) to protest and demand restoration of HPD's proposed \$730,000 cut in \$2 million anti-displacement funding provided as part of the City's 2005 waterfront rezoning in the area.

Richard Mazur, who leads the North Brooklyn Tenant Anti-Displacement Collaborative, in announcing the rally, declared:

"The proposed cuts constitute an egregious breach of the agreement that was essential to the City obtaining community approval of the Williamsburg-Greenpoint East River waterfront rezoning. And more important, those funds are critical to protecting long term residents against the devastating gentrification and displacement impacts of the massive luxury housing development permitted by that rezoning!"

Mazur cited Deputy Mayor Dan Doctoroff's May 2, 2005 Rezoning "Points of Agreement" summary to the Council Speaker which specifically included the following:

“The Administration agrees to create a Tenant Legal Fund of \$2 million – to be managed by HPD –using the proceeds received from the sale of the air rights of the MTA site on Commercial Street in Greenpoint. The Fund will primarily serve to protect existing tenants from displacement and harassment.”

Councilmember Reyna, added:

“These cuts are disproportionate and unfair; they serve to underscore what many of us have suspected since the rezoning points of agreement were reached 3 years ago – that the Administration offered no more than empty promises to this community. Together we must fight to preserve this neighborhood, and we are asking the Mayor to honor the commitments he made in this rezoning.”

The Collaborative, made up of Churches United, Southside United, St. Nick’s Neighborhood Preservation Corp., People’s Firehouse, Neighbors Allied for Good Growth (NAG), North Brooklyn Development Corp. and Brooklyn Legal

Services Corporation A, together have teamed up to provide support and assistance to tenants and businesses subject to inappropriate and often illegal efforts to oust them from their long term homes in order to make room for the more lucrative newcomers pouring into the “hot” neighborhood.

The Collaborative was recently advised by the NYC Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD) that the \$1.3 million, two year contract that it

had been awarded, out of the total \$2 million fund to protect current residents from the massive impact of gentrification exacerbated by the rezoning, would be reduced by 30% in the first year retroactive to July 1, 2008, and then reduced by 43% as of July 1, 2009.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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