



December 12, 2011

Ms. Danae Oratowski, Chair  
Mr. Gib Veconi  
Mr. Peter Krashes  
Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council  
284 Park Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11238

Dear Mr. Veconi, Ms. Oratowski, and Mr. Krashes:

Thank you for your comments on the petition from the Brooklyn Events Center, LLC, for a revocable consent for security structures at its Brooklyn Arena, which is being developed by Forest City Ratner Companies ("FCRC").

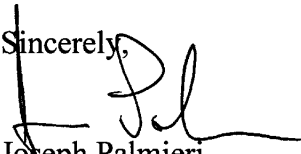
In response to your concern that the effective sidewalk width shown on the revocable consent plans is inadequate to accommodate pedestrian volumes, the New York City Department of Transportation ("DOT") requested an analysis to determine whether the narrower effective sidewalk widths would adversely affect pedestrian safety, operations or level of service ("LOS"). This analysis was prepared by HDR Engineering on behalf of Empire State Development ("ESD") and was reviewed and accepted by DOT. It demonstrates that although the narrowing of sidewalks in some areas would cause an increase in pedestrian density, the LOS remains acceptable per City Environmental Quality Review guidelines in all but one instance. The exception was the southwest corner of Atlantic Avenue and 6th Avenue. On 6th Avenue between Atlantic Avenue and Pacific Street, the revocable consent drawings show a straight curb line, eliminating the existing "bump-out" near Atlantic Avenue. To ease any potential pedestrian congestion, DOT has decided to retain the existing bump-out. With this change, an acceptable LOS will be achieved.

You also expressed concern that ESD's original analysis did not take into account the impact of the relocation of the VIP entrance and parking spaces on pedestrian volume and flow. ESD has provided DOT with further information regarding the VIP entrance. The VIP entrance provides direct access to the event level Bunker Club (a limited-capacity facility located below grade, which can also be accessed from the main entrance). ESD expects that a large percentage of the VIPs will access the Arena from the Dean Street or Flatbush Avenue entrances, as these provide the quickest access to the suite levels or club seating. The assumed small increase in pedestrians due to the relocated VIP entrance was deemed insignificant and therefore not considered in their sidewalk analysis. HDR's technical memoranda in response to DOT are available upon written request.

Regarding question Mr. Veconi raised in his August 18 message to Emma Berenblit, DOT's Director of Revocable Consents, about the configuration of the lay-by lane and bike lane on Dean Street, DOT has found that the proposed design is appropriate and safe for the location.

FCRC and DOT worked closely with the New York City Police Department ("NYPD") to ensure that the proposed security structures would provide the appropriate level of protection for the arena with the minimum impacts to pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Now that all objections have been resolved, DOT is proceeding with the award of the revocable consent. Because the structures have been approved by NYPD for security purposes, FCRC may be granted a temporary security permit to begin installation while the revocable consent is being finalized.

We appreciate your input in our review of this revocable consent.

Sincerely,  
  
Joseph Palmieri  
Borough Commissioner

CCU 11- 11857  
JP:ak:ch

c: Ms. Michelle George, District Manager, Community Board 8