



OFFICE OF THE BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**The proposed draft scope of work for the East New York Community**  
**Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams**  
**March 5, 2015**

Good Evening,

I want to thank the Department of City Planning for allowing me the opportunity to comment on the proposed scope of work of the East New York Community Plan. I also want to thank the residents of East New York for being very diligent and active in participating in this community process.

Today, I am here to listen to what the community has to say, so I can take those comments into consideration when I formally submit my comments by March 16<sup>th</sup>. However, I would like to share some of my concerns today.

The East New York Community Rezoning plan has the potential to transform East New York and I know the city has every intention to continue to develop the best plan on behalf of the residents that incorporates community input, design, and

guidance. I would like to highlight six areas that I feel the Environmental Analysis should carefully consider:

### **Understanding Displacement**

A common recurring theme that has been discussed and raised by members of the community is the potential displacement of residents. With speculators already targeting residential buildings and aggressive investors seeking to get property owners to sell, the possibility of displacement is a major concern for the community that must be carefully analyzed. With increasing rents and the limitations of provisions relating to the rent guideline laws to protect affordable housing, understanding the true risk of displacement must be the number one priority going forward.

### **Housing Affordability**

Providing a sufficient amount of affordable housing continues to be a focal point of community concerns. It is imperative that estimates of proposed housing affordability can be substantiated. Until the city's new mandatory inclusionary housing program text is circulated along with other strategies by the city, it remains unclear how the 33 percent in the scoping document is achieved.

### **Addressing UPK**

With the increase in residential population, the need for an adequate number of school seats must be met. This consideration must extend to the Mayor's UPK initiative, a new program that will provide universal pre-K for four year olds and after school programming for middle school children, as part of a comprehensive

program to enable city children to fulfill their potential. We must ensure existing and future young people have access to this important program.

### **Transportation**

The existing transportation infrastructure in East New York provides a tremendous opportunity to the community to have easy access and frequent service. I look forward to learning more from the analysis about how the transit system will continue to provide the community with easy access to all points of the City of New York and Long Island without overcrowding. In addition to the analysis of public transit, traffic and pedestrian movement, and cycling infrastructure should be analyzed.

### **Area Supermarkets**

There are several supermarkets in the area that the city is proposing to allow for significant residential development. It is important to understand that in the future there will be adequate availability of supermarkets that will provide fresh and healthy food to area residents.

### **Commercial Uses**

There are more opportunities around Broadway Junction to promote commercial development. This could give East New York residents closer access to potential jobs and retail.

The industrial area in East New York is an important part of the community and Brooklyn as a whole. The industrial zone covers a 40-block area in East New York.

The business environment in the industrial zone is integral to local job and economic activity in the area. The plan must continue to support industrial manufacturing and explore all ways to keep jobs in East New York.

Thank you.