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Testimony before the New York City Department of City Planning Regarding the Domino Sugar Refinery, Brooklyn

Hello my name is Adriana Nunez and I have been a life long resident of Williamsburg for the past 18 years. Through the years I have seen how my community has changed and progressed. I have witnessed how the addition of new buildings and businesses has lured a diverse group of people to our community. Affordable Co-ops have allowed those with low income to own property on which they can prosper. It is for this reason that I am pleased to hear about the Domino Sugar project. I have high expectations that with this new addition, our community can unify and progress together as one.

Since childhood I have seen the domino sugar plantation as a symbol of the history of Williamsburg. The area I have resided in my entire life is comprised of families with low income. These people come from various countries that have looked to Williamsburg for a better tomorrow. What worries me is that the corporations that devised this project are not considering the people that reside in this area. I would not want this project to displace the residents from their community. I would be disappointed to watch my home become a playground for the wealthy. To see small businesses surrounding the neighborhood go out of businesses because of an increase in retail stores. I want the Domino Sugar project to offer more opportunities such as employment during and after construction. The use of local manufacturers during construction can involve the community and benefit unemployed residents, who are in need of quality opportunities. It will also offer a chance for the community to integrate and accept these corporations into Williamsburg.

Having been raised in Williamsburg, I have also seen the difficulties that people have finding affordable housing in a decent area. My parents and I have been blessed with our home but we must consider those who are not as fortunate. The amount of affordable housing that has been proposed, while appreciated, does not meet the needs of the community. The number of people who need affordable housing exceeds the number of units currently being offered. The way rent is increasing in the area it gives no hope to the residents or to anyone with a low income of finding a home. I want to know that my children and their children will have the opportunity to see all that Williamsburg has offered me.

One major issue that Williamsburg has is the limited amount of open space. I am pleased to hear that the waterfront will be open to the public after so many years. It is providing a place that people of all ages can enjoy for years to come. Parks are beneficial to both children and adults. We need to have a place in which one can feel serene and not feel smothered by all the chaotic scenes of a city. I trust you take into consideration my opinions and thoughts when making your final proposal.

Sincerely,

