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

Hello my name is Pamela Angeles. I have been a Williamsburg resident for 15 years I came from the Dominican Republic at the age of 2. My family and I have always lived in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. The Domino Factory is to Brooklyn what the Statue of Liberty is to New York City. The Domino Sugar Refinery was once a company that provided work for non-skill workers. Since the close of this plant the need priority has change also. When I first heard about the Domino Sugar Refinery, I was happy that development was going to take place and something good was going to happen for the Williamsburg community. But there are concerns I have regarding this development.

My primary concern is affordable housing. I believe that 720 of the overall 2400 units is a very low number of units for our community. I believe that at least half of the 2400 units should be for affordable housing. 30% is not enough because there are hundreds of low-income families in the Williamsburg community and affordable housing is needed more that anything. We have already lost many residents due to high market rent lets not lose more. Also 100 of the 720 units are for seniors, that leaves only 620 units of affordable apartments.

The open space that we are going to have is very important to us, especially the children. In our community the opportunity to have something new makes me happy. I'm not sure of what it's going to be, probably a park, an entertainment center, a recreation space, dog park or anything that would make our neighborhood better and look cleaner. Also the open space can create job opportunities. Many people are searching for jobs and for one reason or another they just don't have luck with this. This is a good opportunity for those who have very little chance of working.

In other words it's like creating a new neighborhood in Williamsburg. There are going to be changes in our area, which are going to benefit our community. It would be great to have other residents from the city of New York to become residents of Williamsburg. Many people are going to have the opportunity of having things they have never had the chance to have. For example; most of kids dream to have a dog or some kind of pet, now with the chance that they are giving us some of those things will be able to be allowed. The Domino Sugar space can serve many purposes. It can provide affordable housing; beauty the area, commercial space to bring jobs, parks and recreation and most of all stop the misplacing that is happening with the low income. I hope that my words will reach to the hearts of the developers, and government officials that need to vote on this project.

In conclusion I would like to say New York deserves to be home for who ever loves, respect, protect, and wants to live in. Please. Do not take this opportunity away.

Sincerely, Pamela Angeles