APPENDIX E

COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE DEIS

- *Oral Comments Received during CPC Hearing on June 8, 2022*
- *Written Comments Received during Commenting Period*

New York City Department of City Planning

City Planning Commission

Public Meeting

June 8, 2022

Remote via Zoom

BISHOP TAYLOR (1:31:45): Good morning Chair and Commissioners on today. I am Bishop Mitchell Taylor. I am speaking on behalf of the project, in favor of the project, and I wanted to read a letter on behalf of Overseer Bobby Moore from the Astoria Baptist Church because he could not stay for the meeting, but he said:

"Good morning City Planning Commission, thank you for allowing me to speak today. I am Reverend Bobby Moore, the overseer of the Astoria Baptist Church, located at 31-17 21st Street in Long Island City, and I would like to express my unwavering support for the Hallets North Project. The Hallets team has been in communication with local clergy and community members for the past few years and have made efforts to keep us engaged and informed in this project. Beyond the new affordable housing and job opportunities, this project will offer a new community space for Urban Upbound, and Zone 126, two organizations that have done incredible work in our community over the past fifteen years. I trust that this partnership will bring valuable resources to the residents of Astoria who need it most, and allow these organizations to continue supporting the community at large. Urban Upbound has incubated several businesses in Astoria already, and a business innovation space truly sets this apart from other projects in the area. Zone 126, a cradle-to-career nonprofit that is aiding hundreds and hundreds of Astoria children, will fit nicely into this particular project. I have faith that this will aid in the creation of many more small businesses fueled by local aspiring entrepreneurs. I support Hallets North and ask you to do the same. Thank you, respectfully, Reverend Bobby Moore, Astoria Baptist Church."

I am Bishop Mitchell Taylor, the Pastor of the Center of Hope International, and also the CEO of Urban Upbound, and I was reading that letter on behalf of Reverend Bobby Moore. Thank you so much Commissioners. Thank you Chair.

ALEX MALESCIO (1:34:35): Hello everyone, can you hear me? Good morning everyone, I want to start by thanking Chair Garodnik and the other Commissioners for allowing me to testify today. I am going to be testifying on behalf of myself, and also I am going to be reading Dr. Anju Rupchandani's testimony as she had to jump off. She had something else she had to deal with but she wanted to have her voice heard. My name is Alex Malescio, and I am the Senior Director of Programs at Urban Upbound. Tonight I will be speaking about a partnership that Urban Upbound has formed with the Hallets North project team as well as detailing the opportunities this project can create for those that Urban Upbound serves. The Hallets North project team first approached and began having conversations with Urban Upbound prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Then, when the virus struck, the project team acted as good neighbors by contributing charitably to emergency food and other pandemic relief efforts in the neighborhood. Over the course of Urban Upbound's relationship with the Hallets North project team, we developed a plan for overcoming the facilities issues that our Astoria office faces, namely frequent flooding and aging infrastructure force us to wage an ongoing battle to keep our Astoria office operational. However, through Urban Upbound's partnership with the Hallets North development, we will be handed the keys to an office and community space within the new development that will not only afford us a space free from the need for constant emergency maintenance, but will also allow our team to serve the community in a space that is welcoming and inspiring. This community space, which will be provided to us at no cost, will allow Urban Upbound to expand its programming to meet the needs of even more of its community members. Additionally, it is through this space that Urban Upbound will work to ensure that economic output generated by the Hallets North project benefits residents of the Astoria Houses and the surrounding community. This will be accomplished by stationing Urban Upbound's business innovation team in this new space. This team will be there to guide community members through the process of starting their own businesses and worker cooperatives as the need for amenities increases in tandem with new residents in the area,

many of whom will be Astoria Houses residents and others in the community, given the significant local affordable housing that Hallets North includes. Thank you for your time and attention. Now I am going to read Dr. Anju Rupchandani's testimony. She is the Executive Director of Zone 126:

"Zone 126 is an innovative, community-based nonprofit whose mission it is to connect our community, our schools, and our service providers in a shared vision for addressing educational issues in our schools and ending generational poverty. Our mission is to ensure every child currently living in public housing has the education and skills needed to graduate high school, prepare for college and the workforce, and enter the 21st century equipped with the tools needed to thrive. When new developments come to the neighborhood, it is important that we ask what role they can play in addressing longstanding inequities. Connecting young public housing residents to tutoring, mentoring, and after school opportunities is a great way to address inequality and promote opportunity. It is heartening that the applicant approached Zone 126 to discuss a change for us to build upon our work in our community and establish a new headquarters and programmatic space within their building. In this space, we hope to build upon the work that we have done in a new modern space that welcomes our staff and program participants alike. We are looking forward to being part of this new development and further deepening our roots on the Hallets peninsula."

Thank you.

My name is Alex Malescio and I am the Senior Director of Programs at Urban Upbound. I will be speaking about the partnership that Urban Upbound has formed with the Hallett's North project team, as well as detailing the opportunities that this partnership will create for those that Urban Upbound serves.

The Hallett's North project team first approached and began having conversations with Urban Upbound prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Then, when the virus struck, the project team acted as good neighbors by contributing charitably to emergency food and other pandemic relief efforts in the neighborhood.

Over the course of Urban Upbound's relationship with the Hallett's North project team, we developed a joint plan for overcoming the facilities issues that our Astoria office faces. Namely, frequent flooding and aging infrastructure force us to wage an ongoing battle to keep our Astoria office operational.

However, through Urban Upbound's partnership with the Hallett's North development, we will be handed the keys to an office and community space, within the new development, that will not only afford us a space free from the need for constant emergency maintenance, but will also allow our team to serve the community in a space that is welcoming and inspiring.

This community space, which will be provided to us at no cost, will allow Urban Upbound to expand its programming to meet the needs of even more community members. Additionally, it is through this space that Urban Upbound will work to ensure that the economic output generated by the Hallett's North project benefits residents of the Astoria Houses and the surrounding community. This will be accomplished by stationing Urban Upbound's business innovation team in this new space. This team will be there to guide community members through the process of starting their own businesses and worker cooperatives as the need for amenities increases in tandem with new residents in the area, many of whom will be Astoria Houses residents and others in the community, given the significant local affordable housing set aside that Hallett's North includes.

Thank you for your time and attention.