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Response to Comments on the DEIS

Introduction

This document summarizes and responds to comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Innovative Urban Village project published on May 6, 2022.

City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) requires a public hearing as part of the environmental review process. Oral and written comments were received during the meeting held by the New York City Planning Commission on August 24, 2022. Written comments were accepted from issuance of the DEIS through the close of the public comment period, which ended at 5:00 PM on September 6, 2022. **Appendix D** contains the written comments received on the DEIS. Where relevant and appropriate, the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) has been modified to incorporate and address substantive public comment on the DEIS.

Section 1 of this document lists the elected officials, organizations, and individuals that provided relevant comments on the DEIS. **Section 2** contains a summary of these relevant comments and a response to each. These summaries convey the substance of the comments made, but do not necessarily quote the comments verbatim. Comments are organized by subject matter and generally parallel the chapter structure of the DEIS. Where more than one commenter expressed similar views, those comments have been grouped and addressed together.

1. List of Elected Officials, Organizations, and Individuals who Commented on the DEIS

Organizations and Interested Public

1. Association for a Better New York, Aaron Sanders, written and oral testimony delivered on August 24, 2022 (ABNY)
2. Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, Randy Peers, written and oral testimony delivered on August 24, 2022 (BCOC)
3. Community Education Council District 13, Cynthia McKnight, oral testimony delivered on August 24, 2022 (CEC13)
4. Sharon Haynes, oral testimony delivered on August 24, 2022 (Haynes)
5. Local Development Corporation of East New York, Bill Wilkins, oral testimony delivered on August 24, 2022 (LDC East NY)
6. New York Building Congress, Kate Cunningham, oral testimony delivered on August 24, 2022 (NYBC)
7. Service Employees International Union 32BJ, John Tritt, oral testimony delivered on August 24, 2022 (32BJ)
8. Angela White, oral testimony delivered on August 24, 2022 (White)

2. Comments and Responses on the DEIS

Comments Received in Support of the Proposed Action

The following organizations and members of the interested public submitted testimony in support of the Proposed Action that did not address the scope of the DEIS: Association for a Better New York, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, Community Education Council District 13, Sharon Haynes, Local Development Corporation of East New York, New York Building Congress, Service Employees International Union 32BJ, Angela White. The organizations and members of the interested public listed above provided all of the comments received on this application and are summarized herein.

Comments Relating to EIS Analyses

Project Description

C.1 **The project would create a total of 2,050 units of housing. The plans are for all these housing units to be income-based and affordable. A large portion of these units will be reserved for households with lower incomes, ensuring that members of our East New York Community can afford to move in. Also, 200 of these affordable housing units will be reserved for seniors. 50 percent of the units will be made available to Community Board 5 residents, per HPD policy. There will be no direct or indirect displacement. (ABNY, BCOC, CEC13, Haynes, NYBC, 32BJ)**

Response: Comment noted. This comment is not related to the substance of the environmental review.

C.2 **A component of this project would advance homeownership. Homeownership is an important resource for New Yorkers to build equity, benefit from tax incentives, and begin to invest in generational wealth—something rent-burdened New Yorkers have historically been unable to do. (ABNY, Haynes, NYBC)**

Response: Comment noted. This comment is not related to the substance of the environmental review.

C.3 **Holistically, the integration of affordable housing, community facilities services and retail is a win for the community—both those that will live here and its neighbors. (BCOC, White)**

Response: Comment noted. This comment is not related to the substance of the environmental review.

C.4 **The project would include many benefits that will be available to the public, such as a Performing Arts Center, a school, a public playground, 24/7 childcare, green space, retail, parking, and shuttle bus service to nearby subway stations. (ABNY, BCOC, CEC13, Haynes, LDC East NY, NYBC, White)**

Response: Comment noted. This comment is not related to the substance of the environmental review.

C.5 **Of the nearly 10 acres on the site, more than 50 percent will be open to the sky and a network of streets within the site will be integrated into the neighborhood street network, making this development part of the broader context. (BCOC)**

Response: Comment noted. This comment is not related to the substance of the environmental review.

C.6 **The Linden, Boulevard, Pink, and Wortman Houses are all in the vicinity of the Christian Cultural Center's proposed project. Several services that will benefit the residences of these NYCHA housing communities have been incorporated into the project. These include GED programs, childcare programs, career counseling, and vocational training. (BCOC, NYBC, White)**

Response: Comment noted. This comment is not related to the substance of the environmental review.

C.7 **The project would create economic opportunities for members of our community. This project will create locations for local businesses that serve our community to open-up shop. These businesses will bring both local retail and jobs to East New York. (BCOC, CEC13, Haynes, NYBC, 32BJ)**

Response: Comment noted. This comment is not related to the substance of the environmental review.

C.8 **Parking is a major concern here in Brooklyn, and this project would provide additional parking for us. (Haynes)**

Response: Comment noted. This comment is not related to the substance of the environmental review.

C.9 **This project is homegrown and reflective of our local needs. The Christian Cultural Center is a long-term stakeholder in the neighborhood that has helped the community shoulder many changes over the last few decades. Under the leadership of Rev. A.R. Bernard, they have a vision to further support the needs of East New York and bring opportunities for our youth and families. Residents and neighborhoods can have confidence that this is by and for their community. (BCOC, LDC East NY, NYBC)**

Response: Comment noted. This comment is not related to the substance of the environmental review.