September 2,2009

PUBLIC NOTICE OF A SCOPING MEETING
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(CEQR No. 09DCP024X)

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 5-07 of the Rules of Procedure for Environmental Review (CEQR) and 6 NYCRR 617.8 (State Environmental Quality Review) that the New York City Department of City Planning, acting on behalf of the City Planning Commission as CEQR lead agency, has determined that a draft environmental impact statement is to be prepared for the proposed 161st Street Rezoning (CEQR No. 09DCP024X).

The Department of City Planning (DCP) proposes to rezone all or portions of eights blocks along the 161st Street and River Avenue corridors in the civic heart of the Bronx Community District 4. The proposed action would affect the area generally bound by River Avenue on the west, East 162nd Street to the north, Park Avenue to the east, and East 159th and East 153rd streets to the south. It would amend the zoning map to change C8-3, C4-6, R8, R8/C1-4, R7-1, R7-1/C1-4 and R7-1/C2-4 zoning districts to C6-2, C6-3D and R8A/C2-4 zoning districts. In addition, an amendment to the Zoning Resolution text would create the new C6-3D zoning district. The proposed actions are intended to provide new opportunities for growth in an area well served by mass transit; encourage new housing production, including new affordable housing utilizing the Inclusionary Housing Program; and encourage new office and commercial space in the Bronx Civic Center.

DCP analyzed eleven projected development sites and eleven potential development sites. It is expected the proposed actions would generate a net increase of 594 dwelling units, including 148 units of affordable housing; a net increase of 42,004 square-feet of retail commercial space; a net increase of 306,001 square-feet of commercial office space; and a net increase of 10 square-feet of community facility space. The analysis year is 2018. Public comments are requested with respect to issues to be addressed in the draft environmental impact statement.

A public scoping meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at 4:00pm and will be held at the Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse (at East 165th Street), the Bronx, New York, 10458. Written comments will be accepted by the lead agency through the tenth day following the scoping meeting.

Copies of the Draft Scope of Work and the Environmental Assessment Statement may be obtained from the Environmental Assessment and Review Division, New York City Department of City Planning, 22 Reade Street, 4E, New York, New York, 10007, Robert Dobruskin, AICP, Director (212) 720-3423; the Bronx Office, New York City Department of City Planning, One Fordham Plaza, 5th Floor, Bronx, New York, 10458, Carol Samol, Director, (718) 220-8500; and the Office of Environmental Coordination, 253 Broadway, 14th Floor, New York, New York, 10038, Robert Kulikowski, Ph.D., Director (212) 788-2937.