Stagg Street Center For Children

77-83 STAGG STREET, BROOKYN, NY 11206
E-mail: Daycare77@aol.com
TEL [718] 388-1395-6
FAX [718] 599- 6053

Lawrence A. Provette
Ed. Director

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August 6, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Director of Stag Street Center for Children, a childcare program that has resided in the Williamsburg community for 37 years, and has provided service to tens of thousands of low and middle income families. I find myself obligated to express the concerns of the residents we serve with regard to the proposed redevelopment of the Domino Sugar Refinery site.

My first concern is will there be enough affordable housing to meet the needs of our ever changing community? The proposed 30% or 720 units out of 2,400 units is not enough. We support our City Councilperson Diana Reyna in her call for at least 1000 units of affordable housing with the remaining units to be divided between moderate to market rate income families (a minimum of 500 units for moderate income). We believe this is necessary to achieve a fair balance of housing for this project in our Williamsburg / Greenpoint community and the families that we serve.

Second we are concerned that we have not heard if this plan includes services such as childcare programs, new schools, and open green space. New and existing local residents need to be involved in this discussion if a successful responsible plan is to be developed that will receive the full support of this North Brooklyn community.

Finally, the successful training and integration of current Williamsburg residents into the workforce that will be created is essential. The families I represent are in need of work and better jobs. Working with local community groups like mine and listening to our needs will led to an equitable compromise which will benefit all the parties involved .

Sincerely,

Lawrence A. Provette
Director