JEWISH ASSOCIATION FOR SERVICES FOR THE AGED / 202 GRAHAM AVENUE / BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11206 / 388-6865

UJA-FEDERATION OF JEWISH PHILANTHROPIES OF NEW YORK

August 9, 2007

Dear Dept of City Planning

I am writing on behalf of the JASA Williamsburg Senior Center to give comment for the public scoping meeting about the Domino Sugar project.

JASA Williamsburg Senior Center has been part of this community for over 30 years. We service seniors, both to congregate participants and homebound frail elderly. We deliver hundreds of meals a day and have diverse activities here at the center.

There is a desperate need for affordable housing in this area. Weekly, seniors and others who have been part of this community for decades come to us seeking housing as they are pushed out of reasonably priced apartments. People here want their children and grandchildren to be able to be part of this community

The scale of the development of the Domino Sugar Site is immense and will have a huge effect on the future of this entire community. Affordable housing to be meaningful must be within the means of the people who live in this community now. Many of those people live way below the poverty level. Many of our participants and older people in the future will need special supportive of senior housing. There is also an enormous need for subsidized housing for families and people with special needs. The Domino Site should be developed with at least 33% affordable housing. Given the current demographics of the neighborhood, 40% would really be more reasonable.

Infrastructure concerns must be taken into consideration. The city's financial investment will be tremendous. The quality of life for our entire community must be enhanced not just for the elite that can afford full market prices. As Council Member Diana Reyna stated:

> "Responsible planning for new schools, fire houses, and police and sanitation services must be in the development plan. Open space, open to all, is a priority. I would like to see the developers working with local community groups to develop plans for the best use of open space."

The historic nature of the Domino Site must also be considered. The scale is beyond overwhelming. I believe that these decisions should not solely be made on the basis of the profit motive of the developer. The needs and desires of the community must be taken into consideration as well. These buildings as currently proposed overwhelm the scale even of the Williamsburg Bridge and the entire surrounding community. They must be scaled back in order to be part of the community not an exclusive enclave.

Sincerely yours,

Yehudit Moch

Yehudit Moch
Director
JASA Williamsburg Senior Center