

Appendix A
Community Facilities



FIRE DEPARTMENT

9 METROTECH CENTER

BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11201-3857

SALVATORE J. CASSANO

Chief of Operations

Bureau of Operations

Room 7W-4

March 2, 2006

AKRF
Environmental and Planning Consultants
440 Park Avenue South, 7th floor
New York, New York 10016
Attn: Stacey Dinstell

Re: Atlantic Yards Project
Borough of Brooklyn

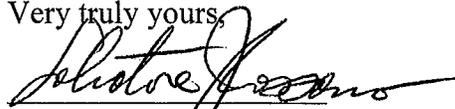
Dear Stacey Dinstell,

The Fire Department has done a preliminary review of the above referenced project. Our response to the four questions you had is as follows:

1. There are no significant changes anticipated at this time to fire houses in this area by the year 2010 and 2016. This is subject to periodic review.
2. The proposed street closures will affect the routes taken by and response time of FDNY personnel. We will continue to monitor our ability to respond and request that you keep the FDNY apprised of any obstructions to our access throughout the project limits.
3. Fire protection throughout NYC is normally provided by multiple fire companies. Fire protection in this area will continue to be provided as per established standard operating procedures.
4. The proposed increase in population density may require the FDNY to add new resources to adequately serve this area. As specific plans are submitted and the project proceeds we will continually evaluate our ability to provide fire and medical protection. If it becomes necessary we will inform you of our need for a new fire station and additional resources.

We appreciate being included at this early stage of development and look forward to reviewing future plans for their impact on fire operations. If you have any questions please call Lieutenant Paul Geoghegan at (718) 855-8571.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Salvatore J. Cassano". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Salvatore J. Cassano,
Chief of Operations

Borough Board Atlantic Yards Committee

Summary of the November 29, 2005 Meeting on Community Facilities

Borough Board Atlantic Yards Committee Members in Attendance:

Council Member Letitia James
Community Board 2 Chair Shirley McRae
Community Board 6 Chair Jerry Armer
Community Board 8 Chair Robert Matthews

Supporting Staff

Greg Atkins, Office of Borough President Marty Markowitz
Ellen Oettinger, Office of Borough President Marty Markowitz
Matthew Gorton, Office of Council Member David Yassky
Kate Suisman, Office of Council Member Letitia James
Sam Cooper, Office of Assembly Member Joan Millman
Irene Van Slyke, Office of State Senator Velmanette Montgomery
Robert Perris, District Manager, Community Board 2
Craig Hammerman, District Manager, Community Board 6
Doris Alexander, District Manager, Community Board 8

Guests & Panelists

Inspector Joseph McKeever, New York Police Department
Bruce Lindahl, Fire Department of New York
Edward Kilduff, Fire Department of New York
Michael Marrone, Fire Department of New York
James P. Booth, Fire Department of New York
Ronda Kotelchuck, Primary Care Development Corporation
Janet Kinney, Brooklyn Public Library
Steven Shechter, Brooklyn Public Library
James Machen, Department of Education Region 8
Thomas Taratko, Department of Education
Niel Dorosin, Department of Education
Mary-Powell Thomas, Community Education Council 15
Linda Corcoran, School Construction Authority

I. Discussion with the Panel

See below questions and topics covered during the panels covering Police, Fire, Library, Health and Education facilities and services.

a. Discussion with NYPD Inspector Joseph McKeever, Commanding Officer of Management, Analysis & Planning

How does NYPD deal with large events?

We have similar facilities in the City – Madison Square Garden, Yankee Stadium, and we successfully police these venues. We're prepared to apply those principles to this project.

What about concerns that the police will take away officers from the surrounding precincts?

We will bring in other officers from throughout the City for events, not take away resources from the local precinct. It's called a "detail." We don't make large events a disadvantage to the local precinct.

How would the command structure work? Has the NYPD looked into changing it?

We're not at that point to look into changing the precinct or Brooklyn North/Brooklyn South lines. We will study the structure as we need to. Right now, it is premature.

What about the new 7500 units of housing, in light of calls that Operation Impact should be reinstated and the resources in the 77 are inadequate?

The NYPD representative was not prepared to discuss Operation Impact specifics – a new class just graduated, and Operation Impact assignments will take place soon.

The City reevaluates the way we staff city-wide on an almost daily basis. If not every day, then at least weekly. We look at numbers, transportation, population changes.

Are there any increases in officers planned for precincts 77, 84 or 78?

It's based on many variables, and each precinct will be looked at singularly and city-wide. I feel confident that we will provide adequate coverage.

Is it possible for us to get a criteria of the thresholds for crime statistics that trigger an increase?

I will see if I can get a copy to the committee.

Do you consider the terrorism threat in your evaluations?

Absolutely, that will absolutely be a part of the analysis.

Are there currently any plans to rehab the 78 precinct house?

I will take your question back and ask if there are any plans underway.

b. Discussion with FDNY Brooklyn Borough Commander Edward Kilduff, Deputy Commander James Booth, Captain Bruce Lindahl and Fire fighter Michael Marrone

Is the FDNY local unit equipped to deal with high rise buildings?

Engine 219 and 105 are local, on Dean Street. We have other units with high rises and all our units are trained in all types of high rise firefighting. Right now, our resources are adequate to cover the first phases. If we need specific training, we'll dedicate people to do it.

Will the reconstruction of Dean Street affect the response times?

We will have adequate notice of the construction plans and will have egress another way. We won't give up a firehouse, so they will have to come up with a plan that works for us.

Do you have plans to evaluate staffing?

We evaluate our staff numbers regularly and change when appropriate.

What impacts will the project have on evacuation? How will it affect response times?

I have people that I will dedicate to studying this. We'll have a discussion on contingency plans. We have not yet been told what the street closings will be.

We have several large, new residential developments in the area, and we have to look at all of them combined. What will happen to response times?

Response time has stayed virtually the same since the nearby firehouses closed. Time would not be an issue with this project.

The State is managing this project. What does this mean for building codes? Will the project adhere to the City's building code for fire prevention?

We had a preconstruction meeting with the developer and project consultants and asked about that during the meeting. We were told that they would adhere to the City's building code. There is

no existing criteria for an arena in the building code. We will be working with the Department of Buildings on egress calculations and formulating an appropriate code.

Will you be analyzing the project as it relates to terrorism? Is that happening during design so the architecture can change?

Yes, we are absolutely looking at that.

Can we get the manning statistics for engine companies in Downtown Brooklyn, for the units responding to the project area?

We have quarterly evaluations to look at these placements.

When you meet with the developer and consultants, do you take into consideration the density of this project?

Every time we have a project, we meet with the Department of City Planning to discuss the project. As far as density, we spent a lot of time training on terrorism. All companies in Brooklyn are well-trained on this issue. We'll continue training and working hand in hand with City Planning on this.

Can you overrule a project if the size is unmitigatable?

Yes, if the effects were unmitigatable.

The scope says that you can move the FDNY facility on Pacific Street. Have you had any discussions on being reimbursed?

The building will be turned over to the Department of City-wide Administrative Services. They will proceed from there. We're in informal discussions with the developer to compensate the Department. We think we have a location.

c. Discussion with the Executive Director of the Primary Care Development Corporation (PCDC), Ronda Kotelchuck. PCDC is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving access to primary care and aiding primary care organizations in accessing capital. PCDC does not represent the City of New York.

Can you give us an overview of the health care services in the project area?

First of all, we can assume that there's a need for additional beds and primary care facilities in the area. There is a decreased use of acute care hospitals, and there is significant discussion about downsizing hospitals and an increase of long-term care.

There is a lack of physicians in underserved communities, and community hospitals are also facing tough financial problems.

There is not a body charged with looking at community needs, with the exception of the Health and Hospitals Corporation and the City's Department of Health. We also lack good data of where the need really is.

This area is in trouble – taking into account asthma, HIV, diabetes, the closing of St. Mary's Hospital, the Brooklyn Hospital declaring bankruptcy, Interfaith Hospital shut down their OB/GYN services. Who is going to meet these needs?

We first need to invest in preventive and primary care, which is much more important than providing hospital beds.

How will the increased traffic affect the asthma rates?

Part of the planning process should take into account the effect of traffic and emissions on the asthma rates.

How will this increase in population affect the health care facilities?

You should look at the assumptions for the increase in population. Look at the ratios stratified by income. Different incomes show different health care needs. I think you will want experts to look at these issues, and I can certainly offer that.

Is a free-standing health center necessary to accommodate the needs of the increased population?

Typically, health care centers are in hospitals. I would look at likely providers. Capital is a barrier to opening a totally free-standing health center, unless you're talking about private doctors.

Do you have any recommendations for an on-site center?

An ambulatory care facility, first, with primary care and care for the elderly population.

Does your organization finance in-school facilities?

We have helped, but not actually financed school health. School health facilities are certainly one of the most important places to have health care.

In the CBA, there is something about health centers. Did you say that was difficult to do?

No, but a totally new provider would be hard to create. I would look for an existing provider, and the facility could address the capital problem.

d. Discussion with the Brooklyn Public Library's Janet Kinney and Steven Schechter

Can you give us a general idea of how this project will affect library services in the area?

Within half a mile, there are three libraries, the Bedford branch which is in a beautiful new building, the Pacific branch and the Clinton Hill branch. The Pacific branch needs new renovations.

Is there a staffing issue with these libraries?

Our staff is down 200 service people from a few years ago. We will have to look at additional staffing.

The Visual and Performing Arts Library is currently in the design stage. It will provide 100,000 ft² of additional service in response to already existing needs.

Have you had conversations with the Department of Transportation about traffic?

We have had ongoing discussions with DOT, and we will work informally with the MTA on transit issues.

How will the Pacific branch handle the new population?

The Pacific branch has 15,000 ft² of unusable space that we would love to renovate.

What is the criteria for a new library?

We have a list of libraries that are in rented facilities. Our ability to construct is driven by capital funding. The renovation of the Pacific branch will add some capacity, but the Visual and Performing Arts library, at the triangle of Flatbush and Lafayette, will be filling the need.

e. Discussion with the Department of Education's Thomas Taratko and Niel Dorosin, James Machen of Region 8, Mary-Powell Thomas of Community Education Council 15 and Linda Corcoran of the School Construction Authority

Are the schools in the area surrounding the project overcrowded?

DOE: The 2003-04 numbers show that in District 15 the schools are at 88% and District 13, 68%. Both show underutilization.

But each school has its own internal analysis, and these capacity numbers you've shared include such spaces as music rooms. What will the influx of residents do to the schools? Will the schools be forced to close music rooms for classrooms?

DOE: Our analysis is ongoing, and we've been doing site visits to help with studying these numbers.

Will there be alterations to the 5 year Capital Plan? Brooklyn has gotten its fair share in years past.

DOE: The plan is always being amended.

SCA: An amendment is being prepared now that will take into account new developments.

Will the schools be given funding to prepare for the influx?

DOE: I don't have numbers that say that, but funding is based on school's needs.

How long does it take for a new school to be planned and built? Will you wait until the schools are overcrowded after the project is finished to begin the process?

SCA: We would not wait to start finding a site and putting together funding. Finding land is the hardest step. We have had an initial conversation about available space in the project footprint. We are doing a school in Lower Manhattan at the base of a residential building with this developer.

Do your projection numbers show overcrowding?

DOE: We have projections that show declined enrollment at elementary and middle schools from a yearly report conducted by a private consultant who works with City Planning and the Housing, Preservation and Development Departments.

The analysis is conducted by district, and then the region.

What factors show that there will be a decline in enrollment?

DOE: They use various data sets, immigration data, population data, birth rate. They are very accurate. There are many variables that could explain this decline, like parents sending their children to private schools.

Community Education Council 15: Our enrollment is certainly up and our schools are at capacity.

Will students be assigned to a new local elementary school?

We cannot predict who will be in the apartments, and shifts would have to be made.

Do you know of any schools in a ½ mile radius that are in need? If so, we would like to flag these needs now.

DOE: The Met. Corp Academy on 3rd Avenue, Sarah J. Hayle HS for the Arts, PS85, PS261, PS38, PS9. In all probably 18-20 schools. I don't have the individual capacity numbers.

Does the School Construction Authority and the Department of Education review the education section of the Environmental Impact Statement?

SCA: We get copies of it to review, and we comment to the lead agency.