

August 12, 2004

Governor George Pataki  
Capitol  
Albany NY 12224

Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno  
909 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, New York 12247

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver  
LOB 932  
Albany, NY 12248

**Re: Javits Center Expansion Legislation**

Dear Governor Pataki, Senator Bruno and Speaker Silver:

For several years, Manhattan Community Board No. 4 has supported and continues to support the expansion of the Javits Convention Center. The Board and the communities of Chelsea and Clinton/Hell's Kitchen believe that the expansion will create economic development and new jobs by better equipping the Javits Center to attract additional shows and exhibitions.

However, it is entirely appropriate to ensure that this expansion, like other major development projects, undergoes a full and complete public review. A healthy respect for the local community and the democratic process demands no less.

This project should be subject to the City's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP). This will enable our Board, residents, and businesses in the local community to comment on the project and allow the City Council and the City Planning Commission to vote on it. The elected legislative body of the City of New York should have a vote on such an important city asset. In particular, the closing of 39th Street should undergo the normal process for closing a city street.

Major development projects within New York City should be reviewed and approved by the City's elected officials. The fact that this is a State project on State-owned land is no excuse for shortcutting the local government's process. In the past, many State projects, including the Time Warner Center on Columbus Circle and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Redevelopment Project, have gone through ULURP or a similar review processes. Since there is a proposal to fund the Javits

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expansion with hundreds of millions of City dollars, it is entirely appropriate that the City's process be followed. The project should also be overseen by the State's Public Authorities Control Board.

Most importantly, the legislation must make clear that it in no way permits the construction of a West Side football stadium Manhattan Community Board No. 4 continues to stand in determined opposition to that proposal, joined by a growing coalition of opinion leaders (*New York Times*, *Newsday*, *New York Observer*) and civic organizations (Regional Plan Association, NYPIRG, Citizens Union). Mayor Bloomberg's administration has claimed for more than a year that the stadium would function as vital part of the Javits expansion. It is entirely reasonable to ensure that this legislation does not in any way tie the much-needed Convention Center expansion to the unpopular and unnecessary West Side stadium.

We understand that the Assembly has passed legislation today that would allow the expansion of the Javits Center. We have not yet seen the legislation, but understand that it addresses our concerns. We would like to thank the Assembly for its concern for our community. We hope that the final expansion legislation will also reflect a concern for this community, and for a public process that will serve the best interests of the State and City.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff  
Chair