



IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), pursuant to Section 505 of Article 15 of the General Municipal (Urban Renewal) Law of New York State and Section 197-c of the New York City Charter, for the first amendment to the Mott Haven North Urban Renewal Plan.

This application for an amendment to the Mott Haven North Urban Renewal Plan (URP) was filed by the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) on November 2, 2020. The amendment would facilitate the development of four residential buildings containing a total of 28 affordable homeownership units in the Melrose neighborhood of Bronx, Community District 1.

RELATED ACTION

In addition to the amendment to the URP that is the subject of this report, implementation of the proposed development also requires action by the City Planning Commission on the following application, which is being considered concurrently with this application:

C 210154 HAX Urban Development Action Area Project (UDAAP) designation, project approval and disposition of City owned property to a developer to be selected by HPD.

BACKGROUND

HPD and the project sponsor are seeking an amendment to the Mott Haven North URP and UDAAP designation, project approval and disposition of City-owned property to facilitate the development of four residential buildings containing a total of 28 affordable residential units in the Melrose neighborhood of Bronx, Community District 1. This application is part of HPD's Melrose Open Door project, proposed to result in a total of approximately 60 affordable home ownership units spread across nine sites in Bronx Community Districts 1 and 3.

The cluster of sites within Community District 1 consists of four vacant City-owned, non-contiguous sites located within the Melrose neighborhood in the Bronx, and is comprised of Project Area 1 and Project Area 2. Project Area 1 is located approximately 500 meters from Project Area 2.

Project Area 1 is comprised of Development Sites 1, 2 and 3. Development Site 1, 672 St Ann's Avenue (Block 2617, Lot 20), is located on the west side of St Ann's Avenue, between Westchester Avenue and East 156th Street. It is comprised of approximately 2,600 square feet of lot area, with 27.5 feet of frontage on St Ann's Avenue and a depth of 94.5 feet. Development Site 2, 675 Eagle Avenue (Block 2617, Lot 70), is located on the east side of Eagle Avenue, between Westchester Avenue and East 156th Street. It is comprised of approximately 1,900 square feet of lot area, with 19.4 feet of frontage on Eagle Ave and a depth of 99.4 feet. Development Site 3, 667 Cauldwell Avenue (Block 2624, Lot 73), is located on the east side of Cauldwell Avenue, between Westchester Avenue and East 156th Street. It is comprised of approximately 2,800 square feet of lot area, with 25 feet of frontage on Cauldwell Ave and a depth of 115 feet.

Project Area 1 is primarily comprised of low-density one- and two-family attached rowhomes, in zoning districts that include R4 and R5 . Immediately surrounding Project Area 1 are medium-density residential districts, including R6, R7-1 and R7-2, that contain approximately upto 13 stories. The surrounding area also includes several other zoning districts, including C6-2, M1-1 and R8A, that contain residential uses, commercial and manufacturing uses. Westchester Avenue, south of Project Area 1, contains a C2-4 commercial overlay, which typically encourage ground floor retail below low-density residential uses, though many of the commercial storefronts are located in one-story buildings.

There are several schools and community facilities within the half mile radius surrounding Project Area 1, including University Heights High School, Dodge Vocational High School, Hostos-Lincoln Academy of Science, P.S. 157 Grove Hill, the Mott Haven Spanish Church, and New Jerusalem Pentecostal Church, as well as the Hub branch of the United States Post Office. St. Mary's Park, located approximately 0.3 third of a mile south of Project Area 1, is a 35-acre park that includes a well-used recreation center with an indoor pool. There are also several smaller open spaces in the area, including El Batey Borincano and Grove Hill Playground, which serves Grove Hill Elementary, the Eagle Slope Community Garden.

Project Area 2 is comprised of Development Site 4, 840 and 842 Tinton Avenue (Block 2667, Lots 1 and 2) and is located at the northeast corner of Tinton Avenue and East 160th Street. Both Lots 1 and 2 contain approximately 1,800 square feet of area. Combined, Project Area 2 is comprised of approximately 3,700 square feet of lot area, with approximately 41 feet of frontage on Tinton Avenue and a depth of 92 feet. The surrounding area is mapped with an R6 zoning district, which allows medium-density residential development, though much of the area is characterized by low-density one- and two-family attached rowhomes. A C1-4 commercial overlay is mapped along East 161st Street and nearby Prospect Avenue.

There are several schools and community facilities in proximity to Project Area 2. The Banana Kelly Community Investment Association is located two blocks east of Development Site 4; the Osborn Association, a criminal justice organization, is located one block south; the South Bronx Children's Health Center is located two blocks northeast; the Woodstock branch of the New York Public Library is located one block west; and the South East Bronx Neighborhood Centers, Inc., a community organization focused on youth services, is located three blocks north. A block north of Development Site 4 is the New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math & Science II. Two blocks south is the South Bronx Early College Academy, and four blocks northwest is the Girls Prep Bronx Middle Charter School and the Jane Addams High School.

All development sites are well-served by public transit and roadways. The elevated 2 and 5 subway lines run above ground along Westchester Avenue. The nearest subway stop is Intervale

Avenue. The BX4 travels along Westchester Avenue, providing service between the Hub and Westchester square. The BX6 runs east-west along E 163rd Street and the BX17 runs along Prospect Avenue. Major thoroughfares include Westchester Avenue and Prospect Avenue. The Bruckner Expressway, a highway running north-south and connecting the Major Deegan Expressway to the Cross Bronx Expressway, is within one mile of Project Area 2.

Development Sites 1 and 2 are part of Mott Haven North URP (C 940470 HUX). The Mott Haven North URP was adopted in 1994 and expires in 2034. The Mott Haven Plan subsection was eliminated from the South Bronx Plan in 1996 as part of an amendment (C 940466 HUX) to the South Bronx Plan. The land use controls of the Mott Haven Plan still apply, including the density and parking requirements for sites with residential uses.

The proposed development would consist of four newly constructed residential buildings at four development sites, containing a total of approximately 28 dwelling units. Development Site 1 would consist of a new four-story building with a mezzanine containing approximately eight affordable cooperative units. The building would have approximately 7,200 square feet of residential space (2.81 Floor Area Ratio(FAR)) and rise to a height of approximately 53 feet.

Development Site 2 would consist of a new four-story building containing approximately four affordable cooperative units, comprised of four one-bedroom units. The building would contain approximately 4,200 square feet of residential floor area. The building would rise to a height of approximately 42 feet.

Development Site 3 would consist of a new four-story building containing eight affordable cooperative units. The building would have approximately 6,300 square feet of residential floor area and rise to a height of approximately 42 feet.

Development Site 4 would consist of a new four-story building with a mezzanine containing approximately eight affordable cooperative units. The building would have approximately 8,100 square feet of residential floor area and rise to a base height of approximately 53 feet.

To facilitate the proposed development on Development Sites 1 and 2, HPD requests an

amendment to the Mott Haven North URP in section C.2.b.(1) The amendment would exempt proposed Development Sites 1 and 2 from the FAR, open space ratio, and parking regulations stipulated in the URP. The proposed development would comply with the underlying zoning for Development Sites 1 and 2. The URP amendment would facilitate the development of 12 affordable homeownership units in two buildings on proposed Development Sites 1 and 2. HPD also requests UDAAP designation, project approval and disposition of City-owned property (C 210154 HAX).

The goal of the HPD Open Door program is to promote neighborhood revitalization, that expands opportunities for affordable homeownership units. The Development Sites are vacant, City owned sites. The proposed development complies with the current zoning for the Development Sites and is designed to reflect the existing building character of the area. The surrounding area contains building forms ranging from low-rise row houses to multi-family apartment buildings. Most residential uses are one- and two-family attached row houses and multifamily walk-up buildings.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This application (C 210155 HUX) was reviewed pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and the SEQRA regulations set forth in Volume 6 of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations, Section 617.00 et seq. and the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Rules of Procedure of 1991 and Executive Order No. 91 of 1977. The designated CEQR number is 19HPD084X. The lead agency is HPD.

After a study of the potential impact of the proposed actions, a Negative Declaration was issued on December 10, 2020.

UNIFORM LAND USE REVIEW

This application (C 210155 HUX), in conjunction with the related application (C 210154 HAX), was certified as complete by the Department of City Planning on December 14, 2020 and duly referred to Bronx Community Board 1 and the Bronx Borough President in accordance with Title 62 of the Rules of the City of New York, Section 2-02(b).

Community Board Public Hearing

Community Board 1 held a public hearing on this application on February 25, 2021, and on that date, by a vote of 13 in favor, six opposed, and none abstaining, recommended approval of the application.

Borough President Recommendation

The Borough President held a public hearing on this application on March 18, 2021, and issued a recommendation approving the application on March 29, 2021.

City Planning Commission Public Hearing

On March 17, 2021 (Calendar No. 2), the City Planning Commission scheduled April 7, 2021 for a public hearing on this application (C 210155 HUX). The hearing was duly held on April 7, 2021 (Calendar No. 20). Seven speakers testified in favor of the application and none in opposition.

Those speaking in favor included seven speakers, as part of the applicant team comprising of representatives of HPD, a representative of the developer, and the architect team. The applicant team described the existing conditions and surrounding context of the Development Sites, and provided background information related to HPD's process for developing infill lots. The team described the proposed buildings, compliance with existing zoning, unit sizes, affordability, and requested actions. A representative from HPD provided an overview of the HPD Open Door Program and explained the rationale behind the proposed tax abatement, the structure of co-operatives, the structure of a community land trust (CLT), and future management of site. They noted that the CLT would be a non-profit with tripart structure and HPD would work towards educating the public about homeownership terms in connection with a CLT. They explained that CLT buildings would have minimum 99-year propriety lease.

There were no other speakers, and the hearing was closed.

CONSIDERATION

The Commission believes that the proposed amendment to the Mott Haven North URP (C 210155 HUX), in conjunction with the related application for UDAAP designation, project approval, and

disposition of City-owned property (C 210154 HAX), is appropriate.

The requested amendment will facilitate the development of four residential buildings containing a total of 28 affordable residential units in the Melrose neighborhood of Bronx, Community District 1. The amendment will exempt Urban Renewal Sites 2 and 6 (1) from the FAR, open space ratio, and parking regulations outlined in the URP.

The proposed project will create much-needed affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households in transit-rich neighborhoods, in accordance with goals outlined in *Housing New York*.

The proposed UDAAP designation, project approval and disposition of City-owned property (C 210154 HAX) is appropriate. It will facilitate the development of vacant City-owned land and eliminate a blighting influence on the neighborhood. The development sites has been vacant for many decades. The project will facilitate the redevelopment of this transit-accessible site and provide new high-quality affordable housing as envisioned in the URP.

This application is part of HPD's Melrose Open Door project, proposed to result in a total of approximately 60 affordable home ownership units spread across nine sites in Bronx Community Districts 1 and 3.

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the City Planning Commission finds that the actions described herein would have no significant impact on the environment; and

RESOLVED, that the City Planning Commission finds that the proposed amendment to the Mott Haven North Urban Renewal Plan is an appropriate plan for the area involved, complies with provisions of Article 15 of the General Municipal Law and conforms to the comprehensive community plan for the development of the municipality as a whole and is consistent with local objectives; and

RESOLVED, that the City Planning Commission, pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City

Charter and Section 505, Article 15 of the General Municipal Law, and after due consideration of the appropriateness of this action, certifies its unqualified approval of the proposed Amendment to the Mott Haven North Urban Renewal Plan URP (C 210155 HUX) in Community Districts 1, Borough of the Bronx.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the City Planning Commission, pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter, that based on the environmental determination and the consideration described in this report, the application of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development for the proposed amendment to the Mott Haven North URP (C 210155 HUX).

The above resolution (C 210155 HUX), duly adopted by the City Planning Commission on April 7, 2021 (Calendar No. 21) is filed with the Office of the Speaker, City Council, and the Borough President in accordance with the requirements of Section 197-d of the New York City Charter.

MARISA LAGO, *Chair*

KENNETH J. KNUCKLES, ESQ., *Vice Chairman*

**ALLEN P. CAPPELLI, ESQ., ALFRED C. CERULLO III, MICHELLE R. de la UZ,
JOSEPH I. DOUEK, RICHARD W. EADDY, HOPE KNIGHT, ORLANDO MARIN,
LARISA ORTIZ, RAJ RAMPERSHAD**, *Commissioners*

**BOROUGH PRESIDENT
RECOMMENDATION**

**CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
22 Reade Street, New York, NY 10007
Fax # (212)720-3356**

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Return this completed form with any attachments to the Calendar Information Office, City Planning Commission, Room 2E at the above address.
2. Send one copy with any attachments to the applicant's representative as indicated on the Notice of Certification.

APPLICATION # C 210154 HAX & C 210155 HUX-Melrose Open Door CB 1

DOCKET DESCRIPTION

PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT FOR DOCKET DESCRIPTION

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 1

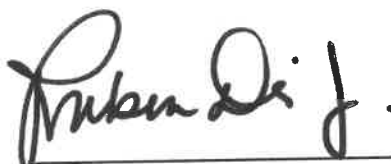
BOROUGH: BRONX

RECOMMENDATION

- APPROVE**
- APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS/CONDITIONS (List below)**
- DISAPPROVE**

EXPLANATION OF RECOMMENDATION-MODIFICATION/CONDITIONS (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT FOR THE BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION



BOROUGH PRESIDENT

3/29/21

DATE

**BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION
ULURP APPLICATION NO: C 210154.HAX & C 210155 HUX
Melrose Open Door CB 1**

DOCKET DESCRIPTION

C 210154 HAX

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD):

- 1) Pursuant to Article 16 of the General Municipal Law of New York State for:
 - a) The designation of property located at 672 St. Ann's Avenue and 675 Eagle Avenue (Block 2617, Lots 20 and 70) 667 Cauldwell Avenue (Block 2624, Lot 73) and 840-842 Tinton Avenue (Block 2667, Lots 1 and 2) as an Urban Development Action Area; and
 - b) Urban Development Action Area Project for such area; and
- 2) Pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter for the disposition of property to a developer to be selected by HPD;

To facilitate the development of four buildings containing approximately 28 affordable housing units, Borough of The Bronx, Community District #1.

C 210155 HUX

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), pursuant to Section 505 of Article 15 of the General Municipal (Urban Renewal) Law of New York State and Section 197-c of the New York City Charter, for the first amendment to the Mott Haven North Urban Renewal Plan, Borough of The Bronx, Community District 1.

BACKGROUND

Approval of these applications will facilitate two related matters:

- Construction of approximately four, 4-story residences in Bronx Community District #1 pursuant to zoning. These four buildings will yield approximately 28 affordable cooperative units.
- Amending the Mott Haven North Urban Renewal Plan exempting Urban Renewal Sites 2 and 6 from Floor Area Ratio (FAR), Open Space Ratio, and parking regulations.

All proposed development is “as of right” meaning that no zoning amendments are required. However, pursuant to ULURP Application C 210155 HUX, an amendment of the Mott Haven North Urban Renewal Plan is proposed by the applicant, seeking to amend Section C.2.b. (1). This action is necessary to facilitate construction of two buildings offering a combined total of 12-residential units at:

- Development Site 1: 672 St. Ann’s Avenue (Block 2617, Lot 20) which is located in part of Site 2 of the Mott Haven Urban Renewal Plan
- Development Site 2: 675 Eagle Avenue (Block 2617, Lot 70) which is located in part of Site 6 of the Mott Haven Urban Renewal Plan

This amendment would exempt the proposed development from on-site parking requirements, Floor Area Ratio (FAR) and Open Space Ratio Requirements.

Scope of Development

Four buildings will be constructed yielding a total of 28 owner-occupied residential units. All units will be affordable cooperatives meaning that perspective residents will purchase shares of stock in a cooperation that will own all the residences proposed herein. The property on which the proposed buildings will stand will be owned by the Interborough Community Land Trust. The buildings will be managed by the Mutual Housing Association of New York (MHANY).

All future sales of cooperative shares will remain affordable at the initial Area Median Income (AMI) for thirty years. This stipulation offers an “investment incentive” to remain in the community for the full duration of this time. Perspective investors will have the option of providing no more than 5% down against the total sum being financed. A higher down payment yields lower monthly mortgage expenses.

Residences will feature:

- Energy efficient heating systems
- Energy efficient windows
- Energy efficient appliances
- In unit washer and dryer hookups
- All ground floor units will be ADA compliant
- Some buildings will feature day-lit common areas
- Roof access for passive recreation
- Heat, water and cooking gas will be paid for by the corporation
- Electric service will be paid for by the resident
- Basement storage
- Bicycle storage
- Common areas will be maintained by the cooperative

The applicant proposes two Project Areas in which four Development Sites are identified. These are:

- **Project Site 1:**

- Development Site 1: 672 St Ann's Avenue (Block 2617, Lot 20) Zoned R6
- Development Site 2: 675 Eagle Avenue (Block 2617 Lot 70) Zoned R6
- Development Site 3: 667 Cauldwell Avenue (Block 2624, Lot 73) Zoned R6

- **Project Site 2:**

- Development Site 4: 840 Tinton Avenue (Block 2667, Lot 1) Zoned R6
- Development Site 4: 842 Tinton Avenue (Block 2667, Lot 2) Zoned R6

Site Development Overview

Project Site 1

Development Site 1: 672 St Ann's Avenue (Block 2617, Lot 20): Zone R6. FAR 3.00. Building Lot Area: 2,605 square feet. Frontage 27.5 feet, Depth 94.5 feet. Site is vacant
Scope of Development:

- 4-story building plus mezzanine composed of 7,207 zoning square feet of residential development. This building will offer 8-residential units, including studios, 1 bedroom and 2 bedroom units.
- The proposed development of this site requires amending the Mott Haven North Urban Renewal Plan. The FAR and Open Space mandates are not consistent with current zoning requirements and parking mandates too restrictive for the modest size of development proposed for this site .

This site is located midblock, on the east side of St Ann's Avenue, between Rae Street on the south, East 156th Street on the north, Brook Avenue on the west and Eagle Avenue to the east. Residential development is typified by mid-rise, 5-story buildings all of which were constructed prior to the 1930's. Commercial development is found on Westchester Avenue. Mass transit services via the Bx4 on Westchester Avenue and the Bx15 and Bx21 operating on Third Avenue. Subway access is offered by the #2 and #5 trains operates on Westchester Avenue and is accessible from either Jackson Avenue or Prospect Avenue stations.

Development Site 2: 675 Eagle Avenue (Block 2617, Lot 70): Zone R6. FAR 2.20.

Building Lot Area 1,930 square feet. Frontage 19.4 feet, Depth 99.4 feet. This site is secured by decorative fencing and is used for off-street parking.

Scope of Development:

- 4-story building composed of 4,201 zoning square feet of residential floor area. Development includes 4-two bedroom units.
- The proposed development of this site requires amending the Mott Haven North Urban Renewal Plan. The FAR and Open Space mandates are not consistent with current zoning requirements and parking mandates too restrictive for the modest size of development proposed for this site .

This site is located midblock, on the west side of Eagle Avenue, between East 156th Street to the north, Westchester Avenue to the south and St Ann's Avenue to the east. Residential development is typified by low-rise, one and two family homes constructed post 1980, as well as midrise three and four story wood frame dwellings predating 1920. Commercial development is found on Westchester Avenue. Mass transit access is via the Bx4 on Westchester Avenue. The Bx15 and Bx21 operate on Third Avenue. Subway service via the #2 and #5 trains operates on Westchester Avenue and is accessible at the Jackson Avenue and Prospect Avenue stations.

Development Site 3: 667 Cauldwell Avenue (Block 2624, Lot 73): Zone R6. FAR 2.20.

Building Lot Area 2,875 square feet. Frontage 25 feet. Depth 115 feet. This site is vacant.

Scope of Development:

- 4-story building composed of 6,325 zoning square feet of residential floor area. Development includes eight units, composed of studios and 1- bedroom flats.

This site is located midblock on the west side of Cauldwell Avenue, between East 156th Street to the north, Westchester Avenue to the south, Eagle Avenue to the west. A super-block with a high rise development operated by the New York City Housing Administration (NYCHA) is located on the east side of Cauldwell Avenue, directly opposite the proposed development of this site. Additional residential development on the east side of Cauldwell Avenue is typified by low rise, one and two family homes constructed post 1980. Low rise four and five story residential buildings constructed prior to 1920 are located on the west side of Cauldwell Avenue. Commercial development is found on Westchester Avenue. Mass transit access is via the Bx4 on Westchester Avenue. Subway service via the #2 and #5 trains operates on Westchester Avenue and is accessible at the Jackson Avenue station.

Project Site 2

Development Site 4: 840 & 842 Tinton Avenue (Block 2667, Lots 1 and 2 respectively)
Zone R6. FAR 2.20. Building Lot Area for Lot 1: 1,886 square feet. Building Lot Area for Lot 2: 1,863 square feet. Taken as one development site, this yields 3,749 square feet. Frontage 41 feet. Depth 92 feet. This site is vacant.

Scope of Development:

- 4-story building with mezzanine comprised of 8,240 zoning square feet of residential floor area. Development includes 8-units, featuring one, two, and three bedroom flats.

This site is located on the northeast corner of Tinton Avenue at East 160th Street. It is bounded by Tinton Avenue on the west, Union Avenue to the east, East 161st Street to the north and East 160th Street on the south. Residential development is typified by low rise one and two family wood frame homes constructed prior to 1920 and more recently constructed two family homes constructed during the 1990s. Additional development also includes mid-rise, 5-story residential buildings constructed during the 1920's and the Woodstock branch of the New York Public Library. Commercial development is found on Westchester Avenue, Prospect Avenue and on East 161st Street. Mass transit access is available via the Bx4 on Westchester Avenue, the Bx6 and SBS#6 operating on East 163rd Street and the Bx17 on Prospect Avenue. Subway service via the #2 and #5 trains is found on Westchester Avenue at Intervale Avenue.

Apartment Size Breakdown, Price Range, AMI, Down Payment Minimum

Studio: 3

Square Feet: 442-554

Price Range: \$157,000-\$197,000

Annual Income Range: \$48,894-\$56,974

Area Median Income (AMI): 67%-84%

5% down payment minimum: \$7,850-\$9,850

1-Bedroom Units: 20

Square Feet: 566-738

Price Range: \$201,000-\$262,000

Annual Income Range: \$58,399-\$75,335

AMI: 68%-88%

5% down payment minimum: \$10,050-\$13,100

2-Bedroom Units: 4

Square Feet: 673-911

Price Range: \$239,000-\$323,000

Annual Income Range: \$69,708-93,066

AMI: 68%-91%

5% down payment minimum: \$11,950-\$16,150

3-Bedroom Units: 1

Square Feet: 923-1,134

Price Range: \$331,000-\$402,000

Annual Income Range: \$96,037-\$115,995

AMI: 81%-91%

5% down payment minimum: \$16,550-\$20,100

Perspective buyers will participate in the Housing Connect Lottery.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND ULURP CERTIFICATION

These applications were reviewed pursuant to SEQR and CEQR and received a Negative Declaration. The City Planning Commission certified these applications as complete on December 14, 2020.

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

A virtual public hearing was held by Bronx Community Board #1 on February 25, 2021. A vote recommending approval of these applications was 15, in favor, six opposed and zero abstaining.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC HEARING

The Bronx Borough President convened a virtual public hearing on March 18, 2021. Representatives of the applicant were present and spoke in favor of these applications. No other participants were present and the hearing was closed.

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

It is with much pride that I have witnessed a virtual transformation in Bronx Community District #1. What was the original "South Bronx" now boasts residential development perhaps never seen before south of 138th Street. Likewise, as it was along Bruckner Boulevard that the city's first "Mixed Use" zoning district was established, what were once empty or nearly empty outdated industrial buildings, today these same structures offer both a place to live and a place for innovative commercial endeavors to take hold.

My administration is committed to expanding home ownership in The Bronx. The benefits of making these opportunities real for Bronx residents can only be achieved if they are first and foremost afforded to those who now reside here. This is an absolute imperative of mine and key to my support of this and all future home ownership proposals. I therefore implore the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to ensure that these new affordable cooperative units are marketed to local Bronx residents. By so doing, not only will these homes provide folks with the chance to make a commitment to their community, but their investment also means that as Bronx Community District #1 continues to grow, so too will that investment. This is indeed a vital part of realizing the "American dream."

As for those who now live where these homes will be constructed, I am mindful of a serious concern raised by a resident of a building adjacent to where one of these new homes will be built. In a very comprehensive letter, a Bronx resident of thirty four years noted this new building would essentially block out ventilation and light he now enjoys. I commend the applicant and developers for their response. By altering the initial design of the proposed building, a "well" will be provided. This will allow for light and air, and as I understand it this also satisfies the resident's complaint. So too, given that all but one of the sites selected is too modest in size to support a mid or high rise residential building, the development of these vacant lots removes any chance of blight on the adjacent neighborhood.

As a point of policy, I regret that these new buildings will not offer a higher percentage of two and three-bedroom flats. In this specific instance however, I acknowledge that site constraints pose design challenges for larger units. I also realize that the full build out of the Open Door home ownership program includes properties beyond Bronx Community District #1. As such, there are overall 31 two and three-bedroom units, while there are 39 studios and 1-bedrooms. I will remain steadfast that any future developments must favor an equitable array of 2, 3 and where feasible, 4-bedroom units.

I am pleased that Bronx Community Board #1 voted to approve these applications and I am also very pleased to recommend its approval.



COMMUNITY/BOROUGH BOARD RECOMMENDATION

Project Name: Melrose Open Door CB1	
Applicant: HPD - NYC Dept of Housing Preservation & Development	Applicant's Primary Contact: Kay Real
Application #	Borough:
CEQR Number:	Validated Community Districts: X01

Docket Description:

Please use the above application number on all correspondence concerning this application

RECOMMENDATION: Conditional Favorable			
# In Favor: 13	# Against: 6	# Abstaining: 0	Total members appointed to the board: 19
Date of Vote: 2/25/2021 12:00 AM		Vote Location: 3024 Third Avenue, Bronx NY	

Please attach any further explanation of the recommendation on additional sheets as necessary

Date of Public Hearing:	
Was a quorum present? No	<i>A public hearing requires a quorum of 20% of the appointed members of the board but in no event fewer than seven such members</i>
Public Hearing Location:	

CONSIDERATION: support was given by the board on the ULURP item with the condition that on 675 Eagle Avenue the firm continue to discuss this site's development with the adjacent property owner.

Recommendation submitted by	BX CB1	Date: 3/9/2021 1:51 PM
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