



CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

December 3, 2008 / Calendar No. 8

C 090056 PCQ

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the Board of Elections and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter, for the site selection and acquisition of property located at 37-18 Northern Boulevard (Block 214, Lot 40) for use as a warehouse facility, Borough of Queens, Community District 1.

This application was filed by the Board of Elections (BOE) and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) on July 29, 2008 for the acquisition of property located at 37-18 Northern Boulevard (Block 214, Lot 40), for use as a warehouse facility, Community District 1, Borough of Queens.

BACKGROUND

BOE and DCAS propose the site selection and acquisition of privately-owned property located between 37th and 38th Streets at 37-18 Northern Boulevard, for use as a warehouse facility. The site to be acquired is located in a six-story commercial building in an M1-5 zoning district which is surrounded by predominately light industrial, commercial and warehouse uses.

The BOE would occupy three currently vacant floors within the building with a total of 138,000 square feet to store and maintain approximately 1,500 new voting machines used in Queens. The new voting machines have been purchased to comply with the Help America Vote Act.

The proposed Board of Elections space would be most active during the three to four days before and after an election day. During these periods, the voting machines would be moved from the 37-18 Northern Boulevard location to various polling locations within Queens. In addition, the current Board of Elections voting machine warehouse facility, located on Metropolitan Avenue in Middle Village will still be operational with the current machines being stored there for one to two years until they are no longer needed. The Board of Elections Queens office will remain in Kew Gardens.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This application (C 090056 PCQ) 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 New York City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Rules of Procedure of 1991 and Executive Order No. 91 of 1977. The lead agency is the New York City Police Department. The designated CEQR number is 08BOE0010

After a study of the potential environmental impact of the proposed action, a Negative Declaration was issued on June 25, 2008.

UNIFORM LAND USE REVIEW

This application (C 090056 PCQ) was certified as complete by the Department of City Planning on August 25, 2008 and was duly referred to Community Board 1 and the

Queens 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 (C 090056 PCQ) on September 14, 2008, and on that date, by a vote of 36 to 0 with no abstentions, adopted a resolution recommending approval of this application.

Borough President Recommendation

This application was considered by the Queens Borough President who issued a recommendation on October 28, 2008 approving the application.

City Planning Commission Public Hearing

On October 7, 2008 (Calendar No. 4), the City Planning Commission scheduled October 29, 2008 for a public hearing on this application (C 090056 PCQ). The hearing was duly held on October 29, 2008 (Calendar No. 17). A representative of the Board of Elections appeared in favor. There were no other speakers and the hearing was closed.

CONSIDERATION

The City Planning Commission believes that this application by the Board of Elections and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services for the site selection and acquisition of property located at 37-18 Northern Boulevard (Block 214, Lot 40) is appropriate. The Board of Elections will be receiving approximately 1,500 new voting

machines, mandated by the Help America Vote Act, and requires a location that is adequate to accommodate the expanded needs of the Board of Elections.

The proposed site at 37-18 Northern Boulevard is in close proximity to major Queens thoroughfares such as Northern Boulevard and Queens Boulevard. The proposed site has adequate loading facilities including large freight elevators, open floor spaces, and high ceilings. Additionally, the building is secure and is fully air-conditioned with proper electrical capacity, which is necessary to meet the technology requirements of the new machines.

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the City Planning Commission finds that the action described herein will have no significant impact on the environment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City Planning Commission, pursuant to Sections 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 Board of Elections and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services for site selection and acquisition of property located at 37-18 Northern Boulevard (Block 214. Lot 40), Community District 1, Borough of Queens, for use as a warehouse, is approved.

The above resolution (C 090056 PCQ), duly adopted by the City Planning Commission on December 3, 2008 (Calendar No. 8), 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.

KENNETH J. KNUCKLES, ESQ., Vice Chairman
IRWIN G. CANTOR, P.E.,
ANGELA CAVALUZZI, AIA, ALFRED CERULLO, III, BETTY CHEN,
RICHARD W. EADDY, NATHAN LEVENTHAL,
SHIRLEY A. MCRAE, JOHN MEROLO, Commissioners

