February 27, 2019 / Calendar No. 14

C 190084 ZSK

**IN THE MATTER OF** an application submitted by North 13 Holdings LLC pursuant to Sections 197-c and 201 of the New York City Charter for the grant of a special permit pursuant Section 74-962 of the Zoning Resolution to modify the permitted floor area requirements of Section 43-12 (Maximum Floor Area Ratio) for a proposed seven-story mixed-use building within an Industrial Business Incentive Area, on property located at 103 North 13th Street (Block 2279, Lot 34), in an M1-2 District, Borough of Brooklyn, Community District 1.

This application for a special permit pursuant to Section 74-962 of the Zoning Resolution (ZR) was filed by North 13 Holdings LLC on September 7, 2018. With the related actions, it would facilitate the construction of an approximately 60,000-square-foot mixed office, retail, and industrial development at 103 North 13th Street in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn, Community District 1.

### **RELATED ACTIONS**

In addition to the special permit (C 190084 ZSK) that is the subject of this report, the proposed project also requires action by the City Planning Commission on the following applications, which are being considered concurrently:

C 190085 ZSK Special Permit pursuant to ZR Section 74-963 to modify the off-street

parking requirements of Section 44-20 and the loading berth requirements

of Section 44-50.

N 190083 ZRK Zoning text amendment to ZR Section 74-96 to add an Industrial Business

Incentive Area (IBIA).

## **BACKGROUND**

The applicant, North 13th Holdings LLC, is seeking two zoning special permits and a zoning text amendment to facilitate the construction of a new seven-story, 110-foot-high, 59,986-square-foot mixed-use development at 103 North 13th Street (the development site, Block 2279, Lot 34) in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn Community District 1.

The project area, which would be subject to the proposed zoning text amendment, consists of a portion of Block 2279 (Lots 1, 9, 13, 34, part of 15, and part of 30) generally bounded by North 14th Street to the north, approximately midblock to the east, North 13th Street to the south, and Wythe Avenue to the west. In 2005, the surrounding area was rezoned from an M3-1 district, which allows heavy, unenclosed industrial uses, to an M1-2 district, which allows light industrial and commercial uses, as part of the Greenpoint-Williamsburg Rezoning (C 050111(A) ZMK, et al). M1-2 zoning districts allow a floor area ratio (FAR) up to 2.0 for certain commercial and light industrial uses, and up to 4.8 for certain community facility uses. Building envelopes in M1-2 districts are governed by a sky exposure plane, which begins 60 feet above the street line. There are relatively high parking requirements, generally one space per 300-1,000 square feet, depending on use. The rezoning was intended to better reflect the types of existing industrial and commercial uses that had come to occupy the area and ensure that any new industrial uses would be fully enclosed and compatible with nearby residential and mixed-use neighborhoods.

The project area was also included in the Greenpoint-Williamsburg Industrial Business Zone (IBZ), established in 2006, intended to signal a commitment to land use and public policies that encourage the retention and growth of such businesses. The Greenpoint-Williamsburg IBZ is serviced by the industrial advocacy and non-profit organization Evergreen as part of its geographic portfolio.

In 2016, the Commission approved a zoning text amendment that designated a full city block (Block 2282, Lot 1) in Williamsburg as an Industrial Business Incentive Area (IBIA) and created two special permits available to developments or enlargements within this area (N 160126 ZRK). The designated IBIA is located three blocks to the south of the project area. The IBIA was one of New York City's first attempts to connect an industrial use incentive to new office and retail development through a zoning mechanism, which facilitated the development of 25 Kent Avenue, the area's first new speculative commercial office and light industrial building in decades.

The project area is within the M1-2 zoning district established in 2005 and contains a mix of commercial and industrial uses in low-scale buildings, including a bowling alley and open industrial storage. The surrounding area, encompassing portions of Northside Williamsburg and

Greenpoint, is characterized by a mix of light industrial and commercial uses in a mix of low-scale and medium-density buildings and limited residential uses located east of the Greenpoint-Williamsburg IBZ.

The blocks to the north and south of the project area are also in the M1-2 zoning district, and the blocks to the east are in an M1-1 zoning district, which allows a maximum commercial and industrial FAR of 1.0 and a maximum community facility FAR of 2.4. There is an M3-1 zoning district to the north and west of the project area, which allows a maximum commercial and industrial FAR of 2.0 and has more limitations on commercial uses than M1 districts. These areas are predominantly characterized by light industrial and commercial uses in one- to two-story buildings. However, more recent development includes the 22-story, 250-foot-tall William Vale Hotel and the eight-story, 135-foot-tall mixed industrial and commercial 25 Kent project.

The area southest of the project area is in a medium-density mixed-use zoning district (M1-2/R6A), which permits a mix of light industrial and commercial uses up to 2.0 FAR, community facility uses up to 3.0 FAR, and residential uses up 3.6 FAR with affordable housing. These areas are characterized by large converted loft buildings and medium-density apartment buildings, with ground floor retail and community facility spaces, and some upper-floor offices.

The area is well-served by open space. McCarren Park is east of the project area across Berry Street, and East River State Park is southwest of the project area, at Kent Avenue between North 7th and North 9th streets. Properties adjacent to the East River are included in the Greenpoint-Williamsburg Waterfront Access Plan, and areas to the west and southwest of the project area are planned to be part of the future Bushwick Inlet Park, part of which has been developed. When fully built out, Bushwick Inlet Park will span 28 acres between North 9th Street and Quay Street.

The area is accessible by transit, with the Nassau G subway station approximately a half-mile northeast of the project area and the Bedford Avenue L subway station approximately 0.6 miles to the southeast. The B32 bus route runs north and south along Kent and Wythe avenues, connecting Long Island City to the Williamsburg Bridge Plaza, and the B62 bus route runs along Bedford and Driggs avenues, connecting Long Island City and Downtown Brooklyn. There are three nearby

Citi Bike stations and the North Williamsburg ferry stop is approximately 0.6 miles southwest of the project area.

The development site comprises approximately 12,500 square feet and is currently vacant. The site is an interior lot with 125 feet of frontage on North 13th Street, a 60-foot-wide street. The site was previously improved with a one-story industrial building occupied by a wholesale food distributor.

The proposed actions would facilitate the development of a new seven-story, 110-foot-high, 59,986-square-foot, 4.8 FAR commercial, industrial and retail development with 25,000 square feet of Permitted Uses (2.0 FAR), 24,993 square feet of Incentives Uses (2.0 FAR), and 9,993 square feet of Required Industrial Uses (0.8 FAR).

"Permitted Uses" are any uses allowed by the underlying M1-2 zoning district. "Incentive Uses" are permitted uses excluding hotels, retail, food and beverage, and other entertainment and hospitality uses. "Required Industrial Uses" are a set of certain light industrial and manufacturing uses that are more easily compatible with commercial uses, and include Use Groups 11A, 16A, 16B, 17B, 17C, and 18A. As allowed under ZR Section 74-962, above the base maximum 2.0 FAR in M1-2 districts, floor area may be increased by 3.5 square feet for each square foot of "Required Industrial Uses" up to a maximum FAR of 4.8, provided that the additional floor area beyond the maximum 2.0 FAR is occupied by "Required Industrial Uses" and "Incentive Uses."

The first floor would be used primarily for retail, the industrial use would be on the second floor with access to a freight elevator, and the upper floors would contain office uses. The second and sixth floors would have access to outdoor terraces. The building would contain 17 bicycle parking spaces in the cellar. There would be one 33-foot-deep loading berth and one curb cut on North 13th Street to accommodate access to the loading berth. According to the applicants, the proposed loading berth would accommodate the loading needs of all retail, light industrial, and office tenants.

The proposed building would have a street wall height of 75 feet and rise to a total of approximately 110 feet after a 15-foot setback. The second floor would provide 9,046 square feet of horizontally

contiguous floor area with floor-to-floor height of approximately 16 feet. The second floor would be accessible by two passenger elevator banks and a freight elevator with direct access to a loading berth on the ground floor. There would be a large shaft measuring approximately 50 feet to the east of the elevators, sized with excess capacity to accommodate a variety of possible exhaust configurations for future uses. The second floor would be designed to accommodate multiple tenants if divided, and access to an outdoor terrace would be provided.

To facilitate the proposed development, the applicants request a zoning text amendment and two special permits.

The proposed zoning text amendment (N 190083 ZRK) would modify Article VII, Chapter 4, Section 74-96 (Modification of Use, Bulk, and Parking and Loading Regulations in Industrial Business Incentive Areas) to designate the project area as a new IBIA.

The applicant seeks a special permit (C 190084 ZSK) pursuant to ZR Section 74-962 (Floor area increase and public plaza modifications in Industrial Business Incentive Areas) to increase the maximum floor area ratio for specific industrial, manufacturing, and commercial uses set forth in Section 43-12. The special permit would increase the total allowable floor area by 34,986 square feet, approximately 2.8 FAR, for a defined set of industrial and commercial uses. This would include 9,993 square feet, or 0.8 FAR, of Required Industrial Uses and 24,993 square feet, or 2.0 FAR, of Incentive Uses, pursuant to ZR Section 74-962 and its related conditions and findings. The applicant is also proposing to develop 25,000 square feet, or 2.0 FAR, of uses permitted in the underlying M1-2 zoning district. The amount, type, and location of these uses, among other conditions, would be included in site and floor plans, recorded against the tax lot, and for the life of the building would be reviewed as a precondition of the issuance of any building permit or certificate of occupancy. In total, the applicant is proposing a new 59,986-square-foot (4.8 FAR) office, light industrial, and retail development pursuant to the conditions and findings of the special permit.

The applicant also seeks a special permit (C 190085 ZSK) pursuant to ZR Section 74-963 (Parking and loading modifications in Industrial Business Incentive Areas) to modify the off-street parking

requirements of Section 44-20 and the loading berth requirements of Section 44-50. The special permit would waive the required 139-174 off-street accessory parking spaces (depending on use) reduce loading berth requirements from three to one, and reduce the minimum dimensions of the loading berth from 50 feet to 33 feet, pursuant to ZR Section 74-963 and its conditions and findings. This special permit can only be applied for in conjunction with a Section 74-962 special permit.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This application (C 190084 ZSK), in conjunction with the applications for the related actions (C 190085 ZSK, N 190083 ZRK), 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 18DCP182K. The lead is the City Planning Commission.

After a study of the potential environmental impact of the proposed action, a Negative Declaration was issued on October 15, 2018. The Negative Declaration includes an (E) designation (E- 507) to avoid the potential for significant adverse impacts related to air quality or noise. The requirements of the (E) designation are described in the Environmental Assessment Statement and Negative Declaration.

The City Planning Commission has determined that the proposed action will have no significant effect on the environment.

#### UNIFORM LAND USE REVIEW

This application (C 190084 ZSK) and the related special permit application (C 190085 ZSK) were certified as complete by the Department of City Planning on October 15, 2018 and duly referred to Brooklyn Community Board 1 and to the Brooklyn Borough President in accordance with Title 62 of the Rules of the City Of New York, Section 2-02(b), along with the related application for a zoning text amendment (N 190083 ZRK), which was referred in accordance with the procedures for non-ULURP matters.

## **Community Board Review**

Brooklyn Community Board 1 held a public hearing on this application (C 190084 ZSK) on November 13, 2018. On December 11, 2018, by a vote of 36 in favor, with none opposed and no abstentions, the Community Board adopted a resolution to approve this application, to approve the related special permit application to reduce parking and loading requirements (C 190085 ZSK) with the condition that the applicant provide proof that there are routinely available parking spaces at the William Vale that would be sufficient to accommodate parking demand generated by the proposed development, and to approve the related zoning text amendment application (N 190083 ZRK) with the following conditions:

"Related retail will not be counted as industrial space and cannot be located in the area earmarked as industrial space;

Industrial/manufacturing space will be rented at least at 20% below market rate for industrial/manufacturing spaces."

## **Borough President Recommendation**

This application (C 190084 ZSK) was considered by the Brooklyn Borough President, who held a public hearing on December 17, 2018 and on January 28, 2019 issued a recommendation approving this application and the application for the related special permit (C 190085 ZSK). The Borough President also issued a recommendation approving the application for the related zoning text amendment (N 190083 ZRK) with the following conditions:

"That for C 190084 ZSK, the 103 North 13th Street floor plans shall be modified as follows:

a. Notate the exclusion of manufacturing processes in Use Group 17 limited to product of exclusively digital format, and that Required Industrial Use accessory retail use (Use Groups 6A, 6C, 7B, 7D, 8B, 8C, 10A, and 12) be limited by permitting up to 100 square feet (sq. ft. without regard to the size of

the Required Industrial Use floor are, though not more than 1,000 sq. ft. based on not being more than 10 percent of floor area per establishment

That in order to supplement enforcement safeguards, the City Council shall seek a binding commitment from the applicant that requires wall-mount signage depicting floor plans of the Required Industrial Use area consistent with the Special Permit application No. A-06 Cellar Floor Plan and A-07 Level 2 & 3 Floor Plans along walls opposite elevator doors, and the corridor boundary entering/existing the Required Industrial Use area

That prior to considering the application, the City Council obtains commitments, in writing, from the developer, North 13 Holdings LLC that would memorialize

- a. Exploration of additional resiliency and sustainability measures such as incorporating blue/green/white roof treatments, DEP rain gardens, passive house design, and/or solar panels
- b. Retention of Brooklyn-based contractors and subcontractors, especially those who are designated local business enterprises (LBEs), consistent with Section 6-108.1 of the City's Administrative Code, and minority and women-owned business enterprises (MWBEs) as a means to meet or exceed standards per Local Law 1 (no less than 20 percent participation), as well as coordinate the oversight of such participation by an appropriate monitoring agency

### Be it further resolved that:

1. That in order to facilitate maximum opportunity for manufacturing uses to benefit from public policy that seeks to provide dedicated floor area for such uses, as part of Required Industrial Use dedicated floor area, from essentially office-like manufacturing processes and excessive retail use, the City Council should seek assurances from the New York City Department of City Planning (DCP) that it would undertake a zoning text amendment as follows:

- a. Modify the New York City Zoning Resolution (ZR) Section 74-961 definition
  of Required Industrial Use to exclude manufacturing processes in Use Group
  17 where such processes are limited to product exclusively of digital format
- b. Modify ZR 74-961 Required Industrial Use accessory retail use to limit Use Groups (UGs) 6A, 6C, 7B, 7D, 8B, 8C, 10A, and 12 by permitting up to 100 square feet without regard to the size of the Required Industrial Use floor area, though not more than 1,000 sq. ft. based on not such use being more than 10 percent of floor area per establishment
- 2. That in order to facilitate the enlargement of existing buildings in the M1-1 zoning district in the Greenpoint-Williamsburg Industrial Business Zone (IBZ) and discourage nearby displacement of industrial uses, the City Council should call for wider applicability of the Special Permit by mapping the entire IBZ, including its M1-1 zoning district, and seeking assurances from DCP that it would advance a zoning map and text amendment as follows:
  - Undertake a study of the MI-1 blocks to determine to the extent that it would be appropriate to upzone such blocks to MI-2 and then to implement such a rezoning
  - b. Undertake a zoning text amendment to amend ZR Section 74-96 to make the Special Permit applicable to M1-1 properties in the Greenpoint¬ Williamsburg IBZ and to include:
    - An M1-1 floor area increase standard modification of ZR 74-962 consistent with the M1-1 maximum community facility floor area ratio (FAR) of 2.4
    - ii. Modification of ZR 74-962 (b)(3) conditions for maximum permitted street wall height to 50 feet and maximum height to 60 feet, though where a public plaza is provided, the maximum height may be 75 feet

- 3. That in order to improve the attractiveness of the Industrial Business Incentive Area Special Permit to property owners, and make applicable to very small lots, prepare an application to amend ZR Section 74-96 as follows:
  - a. That the Special Permit be applicable to zoning lots without any minimum lot size
  - b. That for zoning lots up to 6,000 sq. ft., modify ZR Section 74-962 (b)(1) conditions for minimum amount of Required Industrial Use floor area to be not less than 1,000 sq. ft. of horizontally contiguous floor area
- 4. That in order to establish more appropriate parking and loading berth requirements for developments within the Greenpoint-Williamsburg IBZ seeking the Special Permit for floor area increase pursuant to ZR Section 74-962 and ZR Section 74-963, the City Council should seek assurances from DCP that it would undertake a zoning text amendment that would:
  - a. Regulate Commercial Use Groups 6-16, according to ZR 36-21 for a C8-3 zoning designation, and make ZR 44-22 inapplicable
  - b. Permit every bicycle parking space provided above and beyond the requirement of ZR 44-60 to reduce automobile parking by one space for up to 33 percent of the required number of automobile parking spaces
  - Regulate automatic waiving of required parking according to ZR 36-232 for a
     C8-3 zoning designation
  - d. Specifically note that the CPC may prescribe a set standard for a number of parking attendants as an additional condition and safeguard to minimize adverse effects on the character of the surrounding area
  - e. Regulate minimum off-street loading berth requirements for truck loading to be applicable to ZR Section 36-92 instead of Zoning Section 44-54, per the C8-3 District
  - f. Restrict City Planning Commission findings (a) (d) for applications seeking to exceed such automatic reductions."

## **City Planning Commission Public Hearing**

On January 9, 2019 (Calendar No. 5), the City Planning Commission scheduled January 30, 2019, for a public hearing on this application (C 190084 ZSK) in conjunction with the public hearings on the applications for the related actions (C 190085 ZSK, N 190083 ZRK). The hearing was duly held on January 30, 2019 (Calendar No. 27). Four speakers testified in favor of the application.

An applicant team, comprising the project attorney, architect, environmental consultant, and developer, spoke in favor of the application, describing the requested special permits and zoning text amendment, the context of the surrounding area, and the proposed project and its potential benefits, including the creation of modern industrial space. The architect described the industrial space, noting the floor-to-ceiling heights and freight components, such as a loading berth with direct access to the dedicated freight elevator for second-floor industrial users. The architect stated that the design of the building was intended to evoke the industrial character of the neighborhood, using different types of brick reflective of local material. Regarding the Borough President's recommendation to provide additional industrial space in the cellar where required parking would otherwise be located, the applicant representative noted that the access between the second-floor industrial use and the cellar is not optimal, as the freight elevator does not reach the cellar level. The applicant representative stated the requested parking waiver would support the goal of creating walk to work opportunities, supported by the provision of additional bike parking spaces.

There were no other speakers and the hearing was closed.

## WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

This application (C 190084 ZSK) and its related actions (C 190085 ZSK, N 190083 ZRK), was reviewed by the Department of City Planning for consistency with the policies of the New York City Waterfront Revitalization Program (WRP), as amended, approved by the New York City Council on October 30, 2013 and by the New York State Department of State on March 15, 2018, pursuant to the New York State Waterfront Revitalization and Coastal Resources Act of 1981, (New York State Executive Law, Section 910 *et seq.*). The designated WRP number is 17-133.

This action was determined to be consistent with the policies of the WRP.

#### CONSIDERATION

The Commission believes that the proposed special permit application (C 190084 ZSK), in conjunction with the applications for the related actions (C 190085 ZSK) and (N 190083 ZRK), is appropriate.

These actions will facilitate the development of 103 North 13th Street, the third project to use ZR Section 74-96 to advance a modern commercial office and light industrial building within an IBIA. The proposed building will comprise a total of 59,986 square feet, including nearly 10,000 square feet of light industrial and manufacturing space in the Greenpoint-Williamsburg IBZ. The proposed development will also include one at-grade loading berth and 17 accessory bicycle parking spaces.

The Commission recognizes the continued experimental nature of these types of projects, having recently approved special permits and a text amendment creating the special permits on May 25, 2016 (C 160124 ZSK, C 160125 ZSK, N 160126 ZRK) to facilitate 25 Kent Avenue, the first new mixed industrial and commercial building in the area, as well as 12 Franklin Street on January 9, 2019 (C 1800387 ZSK, C 1800389 ZSK, N 1800388 ZRK). The Commission notes that there has been limited new office and industrial development in North Brooklyn's M1-1 and M1-2 zoning districts, in part because these zoning districts allow limited FAR and have high parking and loading requirements. The special permits pursuant to ZR Section 74-96 provide the flexibility to encourage new commercial and light industrial development in this emerging employment center that could not otherwise be built under existing zoning requirements.

The special permit (C 190084 ZSK) pursuant to ZR Section 74-962 to increase the maximum permitted floor area ratio of Section 43-12 (Maximum Floor Area Ratio) is appropriate. The special permit will facilitate the development of a seven-story, 59,986-square-foot (4.8 FAR) office, industrial and retail building. This includes the provision of nearly 10,000 square feet (0.8 FAR) of new light industrial and manufacturing space (Required Industrial Uses) and nearly 25,000 square feet (2.0 FAR) of restricted office (Incentive Uses). The total development will not exceed the underlying M1-2 district's maximum allowable FAR of 4.8 for community facility uses, and

the 74-962 special permit regulations would reduce the allowable building height to 110 feet and encourage a contextual, loft-style envelope.

The Required Industrial Uses will be located on the second floor and have direct access to a dedicated freight elevator and an off-street loading berth. The Commission notes that the second-floor industrial space meets the minimum required square footage for horizontally contiguous space, and has been designed to accommodate multiple light industrial tenants. If subdivided, each industrial user will have access to an oversized corridor that leads to the freight elevator with sufficient capacity, an exhaust system, and a shared outdoor terrace.

The Commission notes that the building has been designed to meet the intention of creating loft-like buildings that refelect the industrial character of the neighborhoods. The proposed building will rise to a height of 75 feet before setting back 15 feet to a maximum height of approximately 110 feet, within context of surrounding buildings such as the 135-foot tall development at 25 Kent Avenue and the 250-foot tall William Vale Hotel. The Commission also notes that the choice of brick for the facade material relates to the brick warehouse character of surrounding buildings. The Commission acknowledges that the building also meets the goals of quality ground floor design, with the proposed development exceeding the ground floor transparency requirements to enhance the pedestrian experience.

Regarding the recommendation by the Borough President concerning additional limitations on Use Group 17, the Commission believes that further use restrictions are unnecessary. Additional use restrictions on Use Group 17 could preclude advances in operations and technology, making it difficult for businesses to respond to technological trends. Regarding the recommendation to add restrictions on accessory retail space, in a letter addressed to the Commission dated February 7, 2019, the applicant stated that the Department of Buildings sets forth criteria regarding accessory use, including for retail activity associated with Use Groups 16 through 18, and that limitations on accessory space that go beyond that criteria could impose significant limitations on projects pursuing the special permits under ZR Section 74-96. Furthermore, the Commission has been consistent in its belief that retaining flexibility is important for Required Industrial Use businesses, and that further zoning restrictions could impede business operations and viability, as previously

noted in the Commission's decision regarding a similar application at 12 Franklin Street (C 180387 ZSK).

The special permit (C 190085 ZSK) pursuant to ZR Section 74-963 to modify the off-street parking requirements of Section 44-20 and the loading berth requirements of Section 44-50 is appropriate. The special permit will allow the full waiver of up to 174 required accessory off-street parking spaces. The special permit will also allow the reduction of accessory off-street loading berths from three loading berths to one at-grade berth located along North 13th Street, as well permit the reduction in minimum loading berth dimensions from 50 feet to 33 feet to better reflect the type of trucks anticipated at the site. The applicants are also proposing to provide 17 bicycle parking spaces on the first floor, above the required amount of six.

The Commission notes that the parking and loading requirements of the M1-2 zoning district exceed the needs of local businesses and place an undue burden on development, limiting the construction of new light industrial and commercial buildings. Further, the requested parking waiver and proposed reduction in the loading requirements will not create or contribute to serious traffice congestion, and will not inhibit vehicular and pedestrian movement, based on the needs of anticipated users identified in a transportation analysis conducted as part of the environmental review. The one curb cut proposed is the minimum required for adequate access to the loading berth The Commission believes that the proposed parking waiver and reduction of off-street loading is appropriate, acknowledging the physical impact that the existing parking and loading regulations would have on a project of this small scale. The Commission is pleased to note that the project will provide over 10 additional bicycle parking spaces beyond what is required, further encouraging alternative modes of transportation.

The proposed zoning text amendment (N 190083 ZRK) modifying ZR Article VII, Chapter 4 (Special Permits by the City Planning Commission), designating Block 2614 as an IBIA, is appropriate.

The project area is located cater-corner from the previously-approved IBA, which is bounded by North 12th Street to the north, Wythe Avenue to the east, North 11th Street to the south, and Kent

Avenue to the west. The proposed IBIA is also within the Greenpoint-Williamsburg IBZ and an M1-2 zoning district. Expanding the IBIA to include other sites with similar conditions has created the opportunity for mixed commercial/industrial projects at different scales, potentially attracting a wider range of businesses across multiple commercial and industrial sectors. The Commission notes that the proposed project will provide smaller floorplates than previously approved 74-96 projects, which may result in a different mix of businesses.

The Commission also notes that, while not a condition of this approval, in response to the Brooklyn Borough President's recommendation to explore additional resiliency and sustainability measures as well as retain Brooklyn-based contactors and sub-contractors with local business enterprise (LBEs) and minority and women-owned business enterprises (MWBEs), that the applicant, in a letter addressed to the City Planning Commission dated February 7, 2019, stated that the proposed project would incorporate high-efficiency construction techniques and materials, water conserving plumbing fixtures, a low-energy consumption hot water heating system, energy efficient heating and cooling systems, and a water-retentive green roof. The applicants also stated in the February 7 letter that they have previously developed projects that have engaged LBE and MWBE contractors and subcontractors, and that they anticipate that the construction of the development would generate MWBE jobs.

## **FINDINGS**

The Commission herby finds, pursuant to Section 74-962(c) of the Zoning Resolution, that the increase of the maximum permitted floor area ratio will:

- (a) promote a beneficial mix of required industrial and incentive uses;
- (b) result in superior site planning, harmonious urban design relationships and a safe and enjoyable streetscape;
- (c) result in a building that has a better design relationship with surrounding streets and adjacent open areas; and
- (d) result in a development or enlargement that will not have an adverse effect on the surrounding neighborhood.

#### RESOLUTION

Therefore, the City Planning Commission, deeming the actions described herein to be appropriate, adopts the following resolution:

**RESOLVED,** by the City Planning Commission, pursuant to Section 200 of the New York City Charter, that based on the environmental determination and consideration described in this report, and subject to the conditions of the CEQR Declaration E-507 the proposed action will have no significant effect on the environment; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** the City Coastal Commission finds that the action will not substantially hinder the achievement of any WRP policy and hereby determines that this action is consistent with WRP policies; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, by the City Planning Commission, pursuant to Sections 197-c and 200 of the New York City Charter, that based on the environmental determination and consideration described in this report, the application submitted by North 13th Holdings LLC pursuant to Sections 197-c and 201 of the New York City Charter for the grant of a special permit pursuant Section 74-962 of the Zoning Resolution to increase the maximum permitted floor area ratio of Section 43-12 (Maximum Floor Area Ratio) in connection with a proposed seven-story commercial building within an Industrial Business Incentive Area, on property located at 103 North 13th Street (Block 2279, Lot 34), in an M1-2 District, is approved subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The properties that are the subject of this and the related applications (C 190084 ZSK and C 190085 ZSK) shall be developed in size and arrangement substantially in accordance with the dimensions, specifications, and zoning computations indicated on the following plans, prepared by Aldo Liberis, filed with this application and incorporated in this resolution:

Dwg. No.	<u>Title</u>	Last Date Revised
A-03	Zoning Analysis	10/10/2018
A-04	Zoning Site Plan	10/10/2018

A-05	Ground Floor Plan	10/10/2018
A-06	Cellar Floor Plan	10/10/2018
A-07	Level 2 & 3 Floor Plans	10/10/2018
A-08	Level 4 & 5 Floor Plans	10/10/2018
A-09	Level 6 & 7 Floor Plans	10/10/2018
A-10	Zoning Sections	10/10/2018
A-11	Zoning Elevation	10/10/2018
A-12	Detail Elevations	10/10/2018

- 1. Such development shall conform to all applicable provisions of the Zoning Resolution, except for the modifications specifically granted in this resolution and shown on the plans listed above which have been filed with this application.
- 2. Such development shall conform to all applicable laws and regulations relating to its construction and maintenance.
- All leases, subleases, or other agreements for use or occupancy of space at the subject property shall give actual notice of this special permit to the lessee, sublessee or occupant.
- 4. Upon the failure of any party having any right, title or interest in the property that is the subject of this application, or the failure of any heir, successor, assign or legal representative of such party to observe any of the restrictions, agreements, terms or conditions of this resolution whose provisions shall constitute conditions of the special permit hereby granted, the City Planning Commission may, without the consent of any other party, revoke any portion of or all of said special permit. Such power of revocation shall be in addition to and not limited to any other powers of the City Planning Commission or of any agency of government, or any private person or entity. Any such failure as stated above, or any alteration in the development that is the subject of this application that departs from any of the conditions listed above, is grounds for the City Planning Commission to disapprove

any application for modification, cancellation or amendment of the special permit.

5. Neither the City of New York nor its employees or agents shall have any liability for money damages by reason of the city's or such employee's or agent's failure to act in accordance with the provisions of this special permit.

The above resolution (C 190084 ZSK), duly adopted by the City Planning Commission on February 27, 2019 (Calendar No. 14), 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. KNUCKES, Esq., Vice Chairman ALLEN P. CAPPELLI, Esq., ALFRED C. CERULLO III, MICHELLE R. de la UZ, HOPE KNIGHT, ANNA HAYES LEVIN, ORLANDO MARÍN, LARISA ORTIZ, RAJ RAMPERSHAD, Commissioners



## **Community/Borough Board Recommendation**

Pursuant to the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure

Application #: C 190085 ZSK

CEQR Number: 18DCP182K

Project Name: 103 North 13th Street

Borough(s): Brooklyn

Community District Number(s): 1

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

## SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Complete this form and return to the Department of City Planning by one of the following options:
  - EMAIL (recommended): Send email to CalendarOffice@planning.nyc.gov and include the following subject line: (CB or BP) Recommendation + (6-digit application number), e.g., "CB Recommendation #C100000ZSQ"
  - MAIL: Calendar Information Office, City Planning Commission, 120 Broadway, 31st Floor, New York, NY 10271
  - FAX: to (212) 720-3488 and note "Attention of the Calendar Office"
- Send one copy of the completed form with any attachments to the <u>applicant's representative</u> at the address listed below, one copy to the Borough President, and one copy to the Borough Board, when applicable.

## Docket Description:

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by North 13 Holdings LLC pursuant to Sections 197-c and 201 of the New York City Charter for the grant of a special permit pursuant to Section 74-963 of the Zoning Resolution to reduce the off-street parking requirements of Section 44-20 (Required accessory off-street parking spaces for manufacturing, commercial or community facility uses) and to reduce the loading berth requirements of Section 44-50 (Off-street loading regulations), for a proposed 7-story mixed-use building within an Industrial Business Incentive Area, on property located at 103 North 13th Street (Block 2279, Lot 34), in an M1-2 District, Borough of Brooklyn, Community District 1.

Plans for this proposal are on file with the City Planning Commission and may be seen at 120 Broadway, 31st Floor, New York, N.Y. 10271-0001.

Applicant(s):	Applicant's Representative:	
North 13th Holdings LLC 505 Flushing Avenue, Unit 1D Brooklyn, NY 11205	Richard Lobel Sheldon Lobel, P.C. 18 East 41st Street, 5th Floor New York, NY 10007	
Recommendation submitted by: Brooklyn Community Board	đ #1	
Date of bodie hadrith.	inslie Street lyn, NY 11211	
Was a quorum present? YES XX NO A public hearing requires a but in no event fewer than a	a quorum of 20% of the appointed members of the board, seven such members.	
	Ainslie Street oklyn, NY 11211	
RECOMMENDATION		
Approve XXX Approve With Me	lodifications/Conditions	
Disapprove Disapprove With	h Modifications/Conditions	
Please attach any further explanation of the recommendation on add	litional sheets, as necessary.	
Voting #In Favor: 36 #Against: 0 #Abstaining: 0 Total me	embers appointed to the board: 50	
Name of CB/BB officer completing this form Title	Date	
Dealice Fuller Chai:	rperson 12-12-18	



## **COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 1**

435 GRAHAM AVENUE – BROOKLYN, NY 11211 PHONE: (718) 389-0009

FAX: (718) 389-0098 Email: hk01@cb.nvc.cov

Website: www.nvc.gov/brooklyncb1

HON, ERIC L. ADAMS BROOKLYN BÖRÖUGH PRESIDENT

CHAIRPERSON

GENALD A. ENPOSITO DISTRICT MANAGER BOX STEPHEN T. LEVIN COUNTEL HEADER, 33<sup>rd</sup> CD

HON, ANTONIO BEYNOSO COUNCELAUMERE, 3/<sup>2</sup> CD



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PHILIP & CATOROGOE TODOUR, AT-LANCE December 11, 2018

# LAND USE, ULURP & LANDMARKS (SUBCOMMITTEE) COMMITTEE REPORT

TO:

Chairperson Dealica Fuller and CB #1 Board Members

FROM:

Ms. Del Teague, Committee Chair

RE:

Committee Meeting Held on November 26, 2018 (7 members constitute a quorum for this committee)

The Land Use, ULURP & Landmarks (subcommittee) Committee met on November 26, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the CB #1's District Office, 435 Graham Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211.

ATTENDANCE: Present: Teague; Viera; McKeever; Chesler; Niederman; Nieves; Sofer; Weiser. Absent: Barros; Kaminaki; Weidberg. (A quorum was present)

## -1- City Planning: 103 North 13 Street (3 applications)

(A) The first application seeks a zoning amendment adding an Industrial Business Incentive Area to the block on which the applicant's building is located. Approval of the zoning change for the block, rather than just for the building site, would allow the owners of the adjacent buildings to ask for the special permit without having to also seek a zoning change.

Evergreen is in support of all three applications as being in furtherance of bringing valuable employment into the community and providing live-work spaces that would cut down on vehicular traffic.

Resolution: The committee voted unanimously to approve with the following conditions:

- (1) Related retail will not be counted as industrial space and cannot be located in the area carmarked as industrial space;
- (2) Industrial/manufacturing space will be rented at least at 20% below market rate for industrial/manufacturing spaces;

The committee continues to urge the city to respond to the Board's prior request to open-up this zoning amendment and the availability of obtaining the special permit to the M1-1 district and to complete the North Brooklyn Industry Innovation Plan.

(B) The second application, specific to the developer's site, asks for the special permit that would be allowed by the requested zoning amendment. Such permit would permit an increase in floor area for development occupied by the industrial, light manufacturing, and incentive uses in connection with a 7story mixed-use commercial/industrial building. The proposed building is considerably smaller than the previous similar applications, i.e., 12,500 square feet, 125 feet frontage (N 13St).

Resolution: The committee voted unanimously to approve with the above conditions.

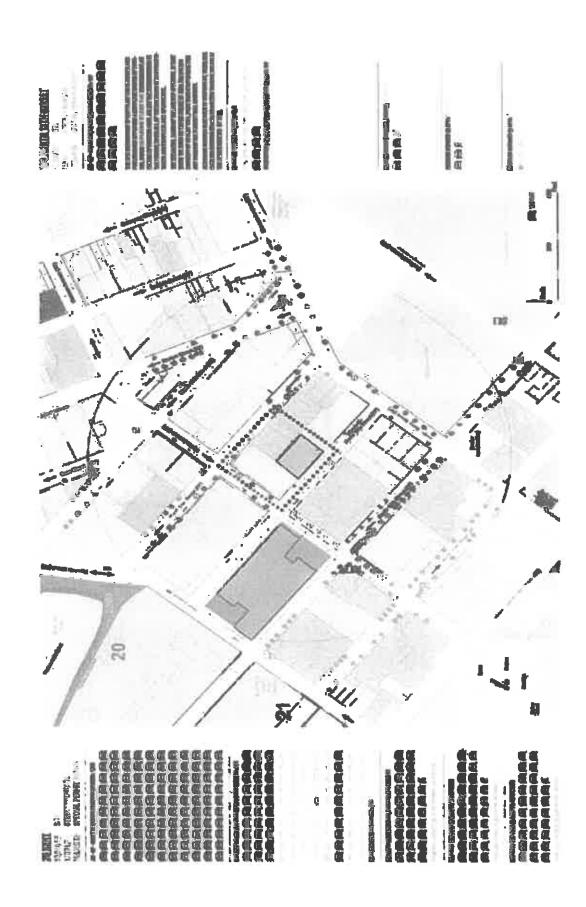
(C) The third application asks for reduction of the required parking spaces from 139 to 0. There will be ample provision for bikes. The applicant pointed out that there is no overnight parking in the area, so the spots are not very useful to residents. The applicant also claimed that there are always plenty of available spaces in the William Vale parking facility that could absorb this building's parking needs.

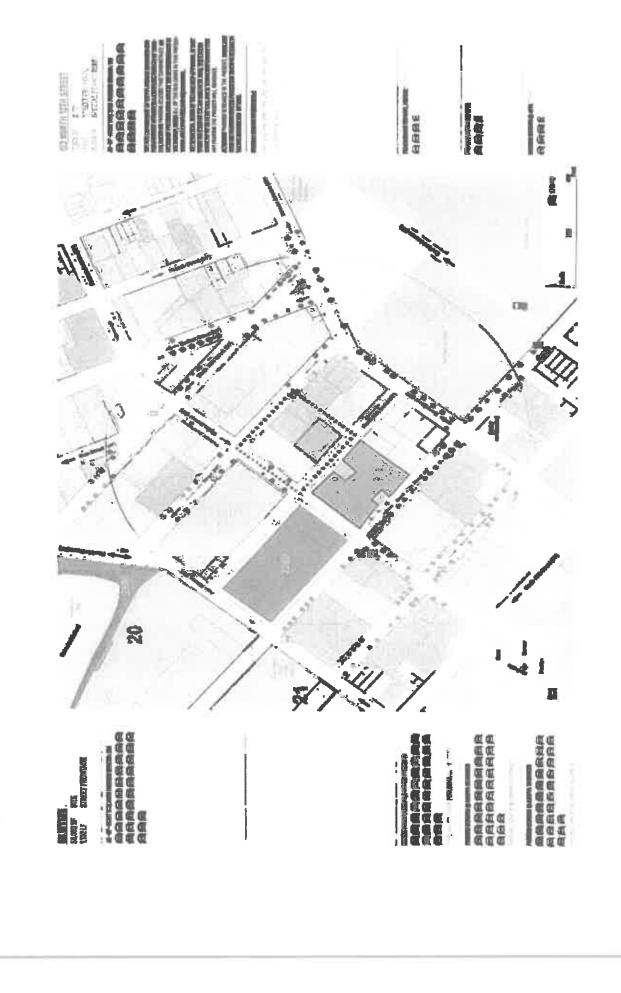
Applicant also seeks a modification of the loading space requirement from two to one. Evergreen had no opposition to the modification, agreeing their plan was adequate given the limited size of the proposed building.

<u>Resolution</u>: The committee voted unanimously in favor of this request on the condition that the applicant provide us with proof from William Vale that they routinely have available parking spaces that would be sufficient to cover the building's needs.

## -2- Council Member Autonio Revnoso - Briefing on the City Council's Charter Revision Commission --

Asher Freeman read the Council Member's testimony, which is attached. The committee thanked the Council Member for his assurance that he will advocate for the inclusion of the community boards in future changes to the charter. The Council Member will keep us informed and involved as his current generalized goals become more particularized.





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## ANTONKO REYNOSO.

Technical to the New York City Charter Register Committed by Council Manibur Artistic Repetitor 17th, 2013

Qued evening membrin of the Chanter Revolutes Consultation. Thank you for your surviva, and for this appointment to triatify. I was Council Minuteer Automit Represented I will be tradifying on behalf of the City Council's Progressive Cancius on our pulseties for the Council and the Cou

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presented drawy from that term political goals and lowerd long-from planning that nessures for the resides of elements change and the reside of a proving essentially. We are set to reinsuring how had use decisions any angle to corpower agreementals in the planning possess to advance the equitable distribution of Chyrepossess, feelibles and son dovelsoned.

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Proposed in the property clear that the City can no single poly on the availage seculation and phenomenal analyticationed piece on a bioristat for our City's growth. We need to return our lend was proposed to holdedeetly assess the City's need for housing, possite doctilities, and malgiphenticus separation. A collect grop the City city of some invested there goes is the doctoriment and implementation of a comprehensive plan to plan for the city's long-term useds, including thready thready thready and the plant, posset, exhools, door sprays, introduced many interests there he absent each mast in antichonomical with economicalities and obserted then be should end met in collaboration with comparables and elected SERVICE OF STREET

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Article Repeate

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## **Email/Fax Transmittal**

<b>TO:</b> Brooklyn Community District 1 (CD 1) Distribution	FROM: Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams
DATE: January 28, 2019	CONTACT: Inna Guzenfeld – Land Use Coordinator Phone: (718) 802-3754 Email: inna.guzenfeld@brooklynbp.nyc.gov
<b>ULURP Recommendation:</b>	NO. Pages, Including Cover: 19
103 North 13 <sup>TH</sup> STREET - 190083 ZRK, 190084 ZSK, 190085 ZSK	

Attached is the recommendation report for ULURP applications 190083 ZRK, 190084 ZSK, 190085 ZSK. If you have any questions, please contact Inna Guzenfeld at (718) 802-3754.

## Distribution

IAME	TITLE	OFFICE	EMAIL
Marisa Lago	Chair, City Planning Commission	(212) 720-3356	ygruel@planning.nyc.gov
Corey Johnson	Speaker, City Council	(212) 564-7557	speakerjohnson@council.nyc.gov
Winston Von Engel	Director, Brooklyn, Department of City Planning (DCP)	(718) 780-8270	wvoneng@planning.nyc.gov
Alex Sommer	Deputy Director, Brooklyn, DCP	(718) 780-8290	asommer@planning.nyc.gov
James Merani	Director, Land Use Review, DCP	(212) 720-3356	jmerani@planning.nyc.gov
Raju Mann	Director, Land Use Division, New York City Council	(212) 788-7207	rmann@council.nyc.gov
Amy Levitan	Land Use Division, New York City Council	(212) 788-7207	alevitan@council.nyc.gov
Stephen Levin	Council Member, District 34	(718) 875-5200	slevin@council.nyc.gov
Dealice Fuller	Chair, Brooklyn Community Board 1 (CB 1)	(718) 389-0098	bk01@cb.nyc.gov
Gerald A. Esposito	District Manager, CB 1	(718) 389-0098	bk01@cb.nyc.gov
Richard Lobel	Applicant's Representative, Sheldon Lobel PC	(212) 725-2727	rlobel@sheldonlobelpc.com
Richard Bearak	Director, Land Use, BBPO	(718) 802-4057	rbearak@brooklynbp.nyc.gov

## **Brooklyn Borough President Recommendation**

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
120 Broadway, 31<sup>st</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10271
CalendarOffice@planning.nyc.gov



### **INSTRUCTIONS**

**BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT** 

- 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 representatives as indicated on the Notice of Certification.

**APPLICATION#:** 103 NORTH 13<sup>TH</sup> STREET - 190083 ZRK, 190084 ZSK, 190085 ZSK

Applications submitted by North 13 Holdings LLC pursuant to Sections 197-c and 201 of the New York City Charter for the following land use actions: a zoning text amendment to New York City Zoning Resolution (ZR) Section 74-96 to designate four tax lots and parts of two others on the Wythe Avenue side of a block bounded by Berry, North 13<sup>th</sup>, and North 14<sup>th</sup> streets, as a new Industrial Business Incentive Area (IBIA); a special permit pursuant to ZR Section 74-962 to increase the maximum permitted floor area ratio (FAR) for specific commercial, industrial, and manufacturing uses, and allow an adjustment in the underlying height and setback regulations, and a special permit pursuant to ZR Section 74-963 to modify the accessory parking and loading berth requirements for the development site. Such actions would facilitate the development of a seven-story commercial building within an M1-2 district in Brooklyn Community District 1 (CD 1). The building would contain a mix of industrial, office, and retail uses, with a total floor area of approximately 60,000 square feet (sq. ft.). The proposed development would provide one loading berth and no off-street parking.

			_	
COMMUNITY DISTRICT NO. 1		BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN		
RECOMMENDATION				
☐ APPROVE  ☑ APPROVE WITH  MODIFICATIONS/CONDITIONS	·	☐ DISAPPROVE☐ DISAPPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS/CONDITIONS		
v .	SEE ATTACHED			

January 28, 2019

DATE

## **RECOMMENDATION FOR:** 103 NORTH 13<sup>TH</sup> STREET - 190083 ZRK, 190084 ZSK, 190085 ZSK

North 13 Holdings LLC submitted applications pursuant to Sections 197-c and 201 of the New York City Charter for the following land use actions: a zoning text amendment to New York City Zoning Resolution (ZR) Section 74-96 to designate four tax lots and parts of two others on the Wythe Avenue side of a block bounded by Berry, North 13<sup>th</sup>, and North 14<sup>th</sup> streets, as a new Industrial Business Incentive Area (IBIA); a special permit pursuant to ZR Section 74-962 to increase the maximum permitted floor area ratio (FAR) for specific commercial, industrial, and manufacturing uses, and allow an adjustment in the underlying height and setback regulations, and a special permit pursuant to ZR Section 74-963 to modify the accessory parking and loading berth requirements for the development site. Such actions would facilitate the development of a seven-story commercial building within an M1-2 district in Brooklyn Community District 1 (CD 1). The building would contain a mix of industrial, office, and retail uses, with a total floor area of approximately 60,000 square feet (sq. ft.). The proposed development would provide one loading berth and no off-street parking.

On December 17, 2018, Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams held a public hearing on this zoning text amendment and special permits. There were no speakers on the item.

In response to Borough President Adams' inquiry as to what consideration has been given to complying with Brooklyn Community Board 1 (CB 1)'s recommendation that rents for the Required Industrial Use space not exceed 80 percent of area rents for manufacturing uses, the representative disclosed that the applicant has met with Evergreen, a non-profit organization that manages the City's Industrial Business Zones (IBZs) in Greenpoint and Williamsburg. The applicant understands the need for affordable industrial rents in the area, and discussed the potential for offering such rents at 103 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street.

In response to Borough President Adams' inquiry as to what extent the zoning permits or precludes accessory retail operations within the defined Required Industrial Use floor area, given that the potential to set up such revenue-enhancing operations on the premises would allow food and beverage manufacturers to pay higher rents, the representative acknowledged the concern and would be willing to discuss the issue in the future when potential tenants for the Required Industrial Use floor area have been identified.

In response to Borough President Adams' inquiry regarding the incorporation of sustainable features such as blue, green, or white roof coverings, passive house design, rain gardens, solar panels, and/or wind turbines, the representative expressed that the building would have a water-retentive green roof and high-efficiency glazing.

In response to Borough President Adams' inquiry regarding the inclusion and participation of locally-owned business enterprises (LBEs) and minority- and women-owned business enterprises (MWBEs) in the construction process, the representative stated that the applicant has developed multiple projects in the area that engaged LBE and MWBE contractors and subcontractors. The representative expressed that the developer would likely be willing to commit to LBE and MWBE participation on this project.

#### **Consideration**

CB 1 approved this application on December 11, 2018 with conditions.

In 2016, prompted by a ULURP application for 25 Kent Avenue, the City Planning Commission (CPC) adopted ZR Section 74-96 in Modification of Use, Bulk, Parking and Loading Regulations in IBIAs. This zoning text amendment established one block of the Greenpoint-Williamsburg Industrial Business Zone (IBZ) as an IBIA, and created a special permit that allows developers to

utilize the maximum community facility zoning in order to construct 4.8 FAR of commercial space, with the requirement that 0.8 FAR (a minimum 17 percent) of such floor area be reserved for Required Industrial Uses. The ZR defines a Required Industrial Use as "a use that helps achieve a desirable mix of commercial and manufacturing uses in an IBIA and that generates additional floor area pursuant to provisions set forth in Section 74-962."

While new development in the Greenpoint-Williamsburg IBZ has tended toward entertainment and nightlife uses, there has also been office development that appears to reflect a growing need for commercial office space in Brooklyn. Demand from creative, media, and technology sectors has led to a reduced inventory of available commercial space in Downtown Brooklyn, DUMBO, and Williamsburg. These neighborhoods are attractive for such industries because they offer companies the opportunity to occupy converted loft spaces and operate in proximity to the communities where their workforces reside.

According to a 2018 report by the New York City Department of City Planning (DCP), manufacturing districts outside of Manhattan — particularly those near transit — tend to be relatively under-developed and have proven to be a critical resource allowing the city to absorb recent robust job growth. New York Works, the jobs plan released by Mayor de Blasio in 2017, identified growing jobs in transit-accessible areas outside Manhattan as an important step to supporting the growth of New York City's 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. The plan estimated that demand for office space would grow by more than 60 million sq. ft. by 2025, with almost half of the demand outside of Manhattan. Supporting creation of office space outside of Manhattan would also bring jobs closer to workers and encourage reverse commutes, relieving strains on transit infrastructure. This growth would, however, have to be balanced by the need to retain space for industrial businesses that provide essential services to the city and a diversity of jobs. It is therefore worthwhile to consider the potential for industrial mixed-use development to help accommodate this growth.

The purpose of the IBIA Special Permit is to promote commercial development on M1-2 zoned blocks in the Greenpoint-Williamsburg IBZ, while guaranteeing the provision of manufacturing floor area that would not otherwise be required by zoning. To that end, ZR Section 74-96 allows a change of use from the as-of-right 4.8 community facility FAR to 4.8 FAR for certain commercial and manufacturing uses by creating three categories of use. The first category consists of uses permitted as-of-right in the underlying M1-2 zoning district, which are permitted as-of-right at a maximum 2.0 FAR (Permitted Uses). The second category consists of uses permitted in the underlying M1-2 zoning district, with the exception of moving and storage facilities, and certain other uses (Required Industrial Uses). The third category is a narrow list of Permitted Uses that comprises certain light industrial uses (Incentive Uses). According to the special permit, developers may construct an additional 2.0 FAR of such Incentive Uses only if the building provides 0.8 (or greater) FAR for Required Industrial Uses. Buildings utilizing the special permit are capped at a maximum 4.8 FAR.

The IBIA Special Permit has the dual benefit of increasing overall employment opportunities in the Greenpoint-Williamsburg IBZ while preserving a manufacturing base vulnerable to displacement. Developers are able to utilize revenues generated by the added commercial/office FAR to provide manufacturing floor space at rents that are within reach of manufacturing firms seeking to locate in the IBZ. Currently, only IBZ properties zoned M1-2 and comprise 5,000 or more sq. ft. of horizontally contiguous floor area for Required Industrial Uses are eligible for the IBIA Special Permit.

Under ZR Section 74-962, prior to granting the IBIA Special Permit, CPC must find that the requested increase in the maximum permitted FAR will result in "a beneficial mix of Required

Industrial and Incentive Uses...superior site planning, harmonious urban design relationships and a safe and enjoyable streetscape...a building that has a better design relationship with surrounding streets and adjacent open areas...a development or enlargement that will not have an adverse effect on the surrounding neighborhood" and for applicants seeking an additional height bonus through the provision of a public plaza, "a public plaza of equivalent or greater value as a public amenity."

103 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street follows 12 Franklin Street and 25 Kent Avenue as the third application to date entering the ULURP process to seek such special permits under ZR Section 74-96.

The IBIA would extend to a depth of 250 feet, inclusive of the 12,500 sq. ft. lot at 103 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street being considered for the requested special permits. This site previously housed a wholesale food distributor in a one-story industrial building that was demolished in 2014. The other properties in the proposed IBIA include 29 Wythe Avenue, and 180 and 190 North 14<sup>th</sup> Street. 29 Wythe Avenue is a corner through-lot improved with a two-story, 21,000 sq. ft. mixed commercial and industrial building. 180 North 14<sup>th</sup> Street is improved with a one-story, 8,528 sq. ft. commercial building. The owners of these properties filed demolition permits in 2017 and are contemplating a separate application pursuant to ZR 74-96. 190 North 14<sup>th</sup> Street is a three-story, 8,765 sq. ft. commercial building, constructed on a 4,000 sq. ft. lot. Finally, the IBIA would include a small portion of 200 North 14<sup>th</sup> Street and 8 Berry Street. The latter site has been approved for an as-of-right redevelopment by the New York City Department of Buildings (DOB).

As proposed, 103 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street would contain approximately 60,000 sq. ft. of floor area, 17 bicycle parking spaces, and one mid-block loading berth with a 17-foot curb cut. The provision of vehicle parking spaces required pursuant to ZR Section 44-20 would be waived pursuant to ZR Section 74-963. 103 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street would house three categories of use within the existing maximum FAR of 4.8. These categories include approximately 25,000 sq. ft. (41 percent) of Permitted Uses, 10,000 sq. ft. (18 percent) of Required Industrial Uses, and another 25,000 sq. ft. (41 percent) of Incentive Uses.

103 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street would have a street wall height of 75 feet, and a maximum height of 110 feet, as permitted by ZR Section 74-962. The building would have seven stories, with the first floor occupied primarily by eating and drinking establishments as well as retail uses. The Required Industrial Use area would be located entirely on the second floor, which would have a height of approximately 16 feet. The third through seventh floors would be reserved for office space. The seventh floor would have 20-foot ceilings to maximize views of the William Vale Hotel and the 25 Kent Avenue plaza.

In order to serve a variety of light industrial and manufacturing uses, the second floor comprising the Required Industrial Use area would have a freight elevator with direct access to the loading berth, and an exhaust shaft capable of accommodating various configurations based on the needs of future tenants. These amenities, together with the aforementioned high ceilings, are intended to allow occupancy by multiple firms, and accommodate special equipment and technology, according to their needs.

103 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street would be accessible by a range of public transportation options including two subway lines, multiple buses, and a ferry. The Brooklyn-Queens Crosstown Local G stops at Nassau Avenue about six blocks away, while the 14<sup>th</sup> Street – Canarsie Local L line stops at Bedford Avenue, about eight blocks southeast of the site. Bus connections are provided by the B32 bus, which runs along Kent and Wythe avenues, as well as the B48 and B62 buses, which stop on Lorimer Street. The NYC Ferry East River service is available at Kent Avenue/North Sixth Street.

There are also several Citi Bike Stations nearby, with the closest at Norman Avenue and North  $15^{\rm th}$  Street.

It is Borough President Adams' policy to support land use actions that broaden economic opportunity within the permitted floor area. Such actions that facilitate utilization of such floor area for occupancy of a wider range of job generating uses are consistent with this policy as they provide a means to achieve much needed employment opportunities for varied skill sets. Borough President Adams supports the development of floor area for manufacturing use groups and for added density of office uses, in sections of Brooklyn where it supports creative, innovation, and maker economies. He further supports such actions that establish reasonable height limits, advance more need-based car parking and truck loading berth requirements, as well as promote developments that incorporate amenities serving a benefit to the neighborhood.

The development of these parcels would transform substantially underutilized land to facilitate a mix of commercial and light industrial uses that would support the economy and create a substantial number of construction and permanent jobs. This development provides dedicated space that assures light manufacturing use group establishments would be operating in a manufacturing zoning district. Such development assures retention of the City's industrial sector as a means to create and retain good jobs for those without degrees from institutions of higher learning. The industrial sector has long been an avenue leading to equitable economic opportunity for immigrant populations, people of color, and low-income communities. Borough President Adams supports the preservation of IBZs for the creation of jobs that serve as pathway to the middle class. With low barriers to entry and real career pathways, industrial and manufacturing jobs — average wages of which are twice that of the retail sector — are a crucial avenue of equitable economic development and opportunity for low-income communities.

Borough President Adams supports the concept of encouraging development of industrial and manufacturing space through incentivizing commercial office and retail uses and creating an ecosystem for a mix of commercial and light industrial spaces in close proximity to the workforce. Such office space is in great demand in certain neighborhoods. The choice is not whether or not such creative, innovation, and/or maker office space belongs in traditional office districts or to what extent in manufacturing zoning districts; the choice is whether growth can adequately be accommodated where the industries want to locate in New York City as opposed to other regions of the United States and in the global community.

Borough President Adams is generally supportive of the proposed development. However, he believes there are opportunities to improve the 103 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street proposal and further modify the IBIA Special Permit to address issues that he raised in 2016 with regard to the establishment of this special permit and which remain relevant for developments under ZR Section 74-96. These include: refining the list of Required Industrial Uses to exclude production of exclusively digital format, limiting the extent that accessory retail space is allowed to occupy Required Industrial Use floor area, and enhancing visual representation requirements. He believes that additional public benefit should be realized as a condition of waiving all accessory parking. Furthermore, he believes that there are actions that would promote appropriate development within the Greenpoint-Williamsburg IBZ through zoning map and text amendments to realize more opportunity for properties in the IBZ. Borough President Adams also has recommendations pertaining to sustainability and resiliency as well as LBE and MWBE jobs.

## **Defining Appropriateness of Listed Required Industrial Uses**

In 2016, the City Council adopted a modified version of a zoning text amendment advanced by DCP that established Required Industrial Uses according to ZR Section 74-961. Under ZR Section 74-961, Required Industrial Uses are limited to Use Groups (UGs) 11A, 16A, 16B, 17B, 17C, and

18A, with some exclusions. For example, while UG 17B permits laboratories for testing, diagnostic medical laboratories that receive patients do not qualify under the definition of Required Industrial Use.

Technological improvements have transformed certain traditional manufacturing space into office-like space with manufacturing processes being digital format product production supported by desktop computer work stations, similar to office space. During Borough President Adams' consideration of ZR Section 74-961 regarding the ULURP to allow development at 25 Kent Street, he expressed concern that the range of proposed uses would permit those that were formerly defined as traditional manufacturing but have evolved to be increasingly digital in nature. Examples include the creation of advertising displays, general printing and publishing, and digital toy manufacturing. Such manufacturing uses are often better able to compete with more traditional office uses to pay rent per sq. ft. for floor area. Permitting such digital manufacturing uses to lease Required Industrial Use floor area at 103 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street would diminish the public policy benefits of establishing Required Industrial Use floor area in the proposed development.

As a text modification is not within the scope of consideration, in order to maximize the resulting public benefit, Borough President Adams believes that the development's Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) should exclude from the Required Industrial Use floor area such UG 17B listed manufacturing establishment that utilize processes limited exclusively to digital format product. He believes that this might be achieved either through notation incorporated in the application drawings for the requested Special Permit or some other acceptable legal mechanism, and be delineated as such on floor plans filed with the DOB.

Borough President Adams believes that in order to maintain the integrity of Required Industrial Use floor area for manufacturing businesses, prior to granting approval for 190084 ZSK, the City Council should seek modification of the 103 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street floor plans with notations that exclude manufacturing processes in UG 17B limited to product of exclusively digital format, or implement an equivalent legal mechanism that prohibits such use from being conforming with the intended C of O.

## Limiting Extent of Accessory Retail as Part of Required Industrial Use Floor Area

There has been a trend for certain uses listed within UGs 11A, 16, 17, and 18 — specifically alcoholic beverages or breweries — in which a small accessory section of floor area is set-aside for retail and/or eating and drinking establishments. For example, the Chelsea Market has an interior retail street, where one can purchase freshly-baked goods from a small accessory retail section off the main baking production area. There are also breweries that contain accessory beer halls and/or restaurants. With the ongoing trend of artisanal food and beverage production, an accessory sales component often provides important synergy and financial viability. However, other manufacturing uses, such as metal fabrication and woodworking, do not lend themselves to accessory retail. This puts such uses at a disadvantage because permitted uses that profit from accessory retail or eating and drinking components would likely be able to pay more rent. Furthermore, if such accessory retail and/or eating and drinking floor space were of excessive size, it would undermine the purpose of establishing dedicated floor area for Required Industrial Uses. The special permit zoning text does not specify whether such accessory operations are permitted to occupy the 0.8 FAR set aside for Required Industrial Uses or what portion of such floor area they may constitute.

As Borough President Adams noted in his 2016 recommendations for 25 Kent Avenue and his recent recommendations for 12 Franklin Street land use actions, the proposed public policy benefits of establishing Required Industrial Use floor area at 103 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street would be diminished if the developer/operator were permitted to lease Required Industrial Use floor area if

accessory retail and/or eating and drinking establishment uses consume more than a nominal amount of floor area.

As has been Borough President Adams' recommendation with regard to the 25 Kent Avenue and 12 Franklin Street ULURP applications, he seeks to clearly define the extent of the Required Industrial Use floor area at 103 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street that would be allotted for supporting accessory retail as well as eating and drinking operations. He believes that it is appropriate to limit Required Industrial Use accessory retail operations, specifically for UGs 6A, 6C, 7B, 7D, 8B, 8C, 10A, and 12 by permitting up to 100 sq. ft. without regard to the size of the Required Industrial Use establishment, though not more than 1,000 sq. ft. or not exceeding 10 percent of floor area per establishment. Where a business plan supports an accessory use in excess of such size limitation, such floor area should be designated as Permitted Use floor area, incorporated in the development's C of O, and be delineated as such on floor plans filed with DOB.

Borough President Adams believes that in order to maintain the integrity of Required Industrial Use floor area for manufacturing businesses, prior to granting approval for 190084 ZSK, the City Council should seek modification of the 103 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street floor plans with notations that limit Required Industrial Use accessory retail uses (UGs 6A, 6C, 7B, 7D, 8B, 8C, 10A, and 12) to 100 sq. ft. without regard to the size of the Required Industrial Use floor area or not exceeding 10 percent of floor area per establishment, though not more than 1,000 sq. ft., or implement an equivalent legal mechanism that prohibits such extent of accessory use from being conforming with the intended C of O.

## Maximizing Public Benefit of Space Resulting From The Waiver of Required Parking

As represented, the proposed development's cellar would provide 12,500 sq. ft. of gross floor area. Within its foundation walls is a 94.67 foot by 115.33 foot space that, excluding bicycle storage, elevator and mechanical equipment, and two stairwells, provides approximately 9,440 sq. ft. to accommodate permitted uses. If this space were used for self-parking, it might be possible to accommodate 20 parking spaces given the columns now likely in place from the previous halted construction. However, providing a dual direction ramp to the cellar-level parking would lead to the loss of approximately 1,000 sq. ft. of ground floor retail, and force the developer to bear the cost of reconstructing the ground floor of the halted construction site.

Though CPC may reduce or waive off-street parking per ZR Section 74-963 from 139 to 174 as-of-right parking spaces, the addition of 17 additional bicycle spaces is, at best, a modest public benefit given the cost savings derived by the developer from the parking waiver, and the possible revenue for using the approximately 9,440 sq. ft. for permitted use.

Borough President Adams believes that the avoidance of costs associated with providing the otherwise required parking, combined with the ability to retain the income from retail uses that would be displaced to accommodate a parking ramp, as well as revenue from leasing up to 9,440 sq. ft. of cellar space for permitted uses, warrants additional consideration for public benefit. He believes that such public benefit should be achieved by securing additional space for Required Industrial uses at a rate consistent with that applied to the zoning floor area (one sq. ft. per three and a half sq. ft. of other uses). Therefore, it is appropriate to reserve approximately 2,700 sq. ft. of cellar floor area for occupancy by Required Industrial Uses.

In order to ensure the provision of such space, CPC and/or City Council should require that drawing No. A-6 be delineated to depict an appropriate segment of the cellar floor plan for Required Industrial Use at a rate of one sq. ft. to three and a half sq. ft. exclusive of floor area used for vertical circulation and building support floor area (e.g. mechanical closets) and bicycle storage.

## Regulatory Oversight of Required Industrial Use Floor Area

In order to ensure the integrity of Required Industrial Use space, ZR Section 74-962 requires compliance and recordation, periodic notification by the owner, and annual reporting by a qualified third party. Under the Special Permit rules, the property owner must file a Notice of Restrictions as a precondition to receiving a building permit from DOB. With regard to the C of O, ZR Section 74-962 states that "no temporary certificate of occupancy for any portion of the building to be occupied by incentive uses shall be issued until a temporary certificate of occupancy for the core and shell is issued for all portions of the building required to be occupied by required industrial uses." Such regulation is designed to ensure that the Required Industrial Use area is provided before any Incentive Use area contingent on the provision of such manufacturing floor area is occupied.

According to ZR Section 74-962, each new lease executed for any part of the Required Industrial Use space requires public notification, via electronic resource, of certain information about each new tenant and use. Such notification must include, among other information, the total floor area of the Required Industrial Uses in the development, a digital copy of all approved Special Permit drawings pursuant to ZR Section 74-962 (a)(1) through (a)(4), and the names of all establishments occupying floor area reserved for Required Industrial Uses. Additionally, for each establishment, public notification must specify the amount of Required Industrial Use floor area, the UG, the subgroup, and the specific use as listed in the ZR.

The property owner is also required to retain a qualified third party, approved by the New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS) to produce an annual report and conduct an inspection to ensure that the Required Industrial Use area is compliant with the provisions of ZR Section 74-962. Such report must include a description of each establishment with the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code and number of employees, the total amount of vacant Required Industrial Use floor area, as applicable; the average annual rent for the combined total of the portions of the building reserved for occupancy by Required Industrial Uses, and the number of new leases executed during the calendar year, categorized by lease duration, in five year increments. Such report must be submitted to DCP, as well as the Brooklyn borough president, the local City Council member, and the community board. Such report must be prepared by an organization under contract with the City to provide inspection services, an SBS-certified firm that provides such inspection services, or an entity that the commissioner of SBS determines to be qualified to produce such report, provided that any qualified third party selected by the owner to prepare such a report shall have a professional engineer or a registered architect licensed under the laws of the State of New York to certify the report. Borough President Adams believes that one of the area's nonprofit industrial business solutions providers, such as Evergreen, Greenpoint Manufacturing and Design Center (GMDC), and the North Brooklyn Development Corporation (NDDC) would warrant consideration to potentially serve as an administering agent for 103 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street.

In terms of visual clues to memorialize the inclusion of Required Industrial Use floor area, ZR Section 74-962 requires an information sign mounted at all primary entrances to the building stating the name and address, as well as the following: "This building is subject to Industrial Business Incentive Area (IBIA) regulations, which require a minimum amount of space to be provided for specific industrial uses."

Borough President Adams is concerned that the ZR does not require visual regulatory oversight of Required Industrial Use floor area beyond the primary entrances. As such, within the building it is possible to misrepresent such Required Industrial Use space as allowing as-of-right or incentive uses. In order to serve as a deterrent to such representation, Borough President Adams believes that it is appropriate to mandate signage depicting the Required Industrial Uses on the floor plans of any floor without direct access to the street. So in addition to within the building lobby, such

signage should be placed opposite elevators leading to such spaces, in the corridors upon entering such spaces. For 103 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street, this should be achieved by require visible plaques depicting a floor plan representation of Required Industrial Use floor area, consistent with Special Permit application drawings No. A-06 Cellar Floor Plan and A-07 Level 2 & 3 Floor Plans.

Therefore, as an additional means to adequately provide additional regulatory oversight of Required Industrial Use floor area, Borough President Adams calls on the City Council to augment regulatory oversight of the Required Industrial Use floor area, by obtaining a binding commitment from the applicant that requires wall-mount signage depicting floor plan representation of Required Industrial Use area consistent with Special Permit application drawings No. A-06 Cellar Floor Plan and A-07 Level 2 & 3 Floor Plans at walls opposite elevator doors and corridor boundary entering/exiting from Required Industrial Use area.

## **Advancing Resilient and Sustainable Energy and Stormwater Management Policies**

It is Borough President Adams' sustainable energy policy to promote opportunities that utilize blue/green/white roofs, solar panels, and/or wind turbines, as well as passive house construction. He encourages developers to coordinate with the New York City Mayor's Office of Sustainability, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and/or the New York Power Authority (NYPA) at each project site. Such modifications tend to increase energy efficiency and reduce a development's carbon footprint. The proposed development offers opportunities to explore resiliency and sustainability measures such as incorporating blue/green/white roof finishes, passive house design, solar panels, and wind turbines.

Furthermore, as part of his flood resiliency policy, Borough President Adams also encourages developers to introduce best practices to manage stormwater runoff, such as incorporating permeable pavers and/or establishing rain gardens or tree pit enlargements that advance DEP's green infrastructure strategy. According to the "New York City Green Infrastructure 2017 Annual Report," green infrastructure plays a critical role in addressing water quality challenges and provides numerous economic, environmental, and social co-benefits.

Borough President Adams believes that sidewalks with nominal landscaping and/or adjacent roadway surfaces are potential resources that could be transformed through the incorporation of rain gardens, which provide tangible environmental benefits through rainwater collection, improved air quality, and streetscape beautification. Tree plantings can be consolidated with rain gardens as part of a more comprehensive green infrastructure strategy. In addition, blue/green roofs, permeable pavers, and rain gardens would divert stormwater from the City's water pollution control plants.

The sidewalk areas fronting the proposed development on North 13<sup>th</sup> Street could potentially accommodate the construction of DEP rain gardens, which could be integrated with the planting of new street trees.

It should be noted that such rain gardens would require maintenance commitment and attention from the property owner. Maintenance includes cleaning out debris and litter that can clog the inlet/outlet and prevent proper water collection, regular inspection to prevent soil erosion, watering during dry and hot periods, and weeding to keep the plants healthy and uncongested for proper water absorption. Such efforts could help advance DEP green water/stormwater strategies, enhancing the operation of the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant during wet weather. Such rain gardens have the added benefit of serving as a streetscape improvement.

Borough President Adams believes it is appropriate for the property owner to engage government agencies, such as the Mayor's Office of Sustainability, NYSERDA, and/or NYPA, and consider

government grants and programs that might offset costs associated with enhancing the resiliency and sustainability of this development site. One such program is the City's Green Roof Tax Abatement (GRTA), which provides a reduction of City property taxes by \$4.50 per square foot of green roof, up to \$100,000. The DEP Office of Green Infrastructure advises property owners and their design professionals through the GRTA application process. Borough President Adams encourages the developer to reach out to his office for any help in opening dialogue with the aforementioned agencies and further coordination on this matter.

Therefore, prior to considering the application, the City Council should obtain commitments, in writing, from the applicant, North 13 Holdings LLC, that clarify their intent to further explore additional resiliency and sustainability measures, and commitment to coordinate with DEP, DOT, and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks) regarding the installation of expanded tree pits and installation and maintenance of DEP rain gardens, in consultation with CB 1 and local elected officials.

### **Jobs**

Borough President Adams is concerned that too many Brooklyn residents are currently unemployed or underemployed. It is his policy to promote economic development that creates more employment opportunities. According to the Furman Center's "State of New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods in 2015," double-digit unemployment remains a pervasive reality for several of Brooklyn's neighborhoods, with more than half of the borough's community districts experiencing poverty rates of nearly 25 percent or greater. Prioritizing local hiring would assist in addressing this employment crisis. Additionally, promoting Brooklyn-based businesses, including those that qualify as LBEs and MWBEs, is central to Borough President Adams' economic development agenda. This site provides opportunities for the developer to retain a Brooklyn-based contractor and subcontractor, especially those that are designated LBEs consistent with Section 6-108.1 of the City's Administrative Code, and MWBEs that meet or exceed standards per Local Law 1 (no less than 20 percent participation).

Borough President Adams believes that prior to considering the application, the City Council should obtain commitments, in writing, from the applicant, North 13 Holdings LLC, that clarify its intent to memorialize retention of Brooklyn-based contractors and subcontractors, especially those that are designated LBE consistent with Section 6-108.1 of the City's Administrative Code and/or MWBE as a means to meet or exceed standards per Local Law 1 (no less than 20 percent participation), as well as coordinate the oversight of such participation by an appropriate monitoring agency.

## Realizing Appropriate Public Purpose Benefit by Amending the Listed Required Industrial Uses

As noted under ZR 74-961, Required Industrial Uses are limited to UGs 11A, 16A, 16B, 17B, 17C, and 18A, with some exclusions. UG 17B includes certain uses that are increasingly digital in nature, spurred by technological improvements, in which the manufacturing processes has evolved to digital format product supported by desktop computer work stations, similar to office space. Currently, the only UG 17B use that does not qualify as a Required Industrial Use is diagnostic medical laboratories. As a result of such technological advancements, firms that are digital in nature are often able to compete financially with more traditional office uses when renting floor area. Therefore, such uses do not require the extent of assistance that many maker uses require in order to sustain a presence as a viable manufacturing sector in the urban neighborhoods of New York City.

While traditional manufacturing jobs in New York City have seen a steady decline, the City has seen growth in jobs related to artisanal/creative manufacturing, art production, beverage and food

manufacturing, film and television production, fine woodworking and custom furniture designs, high-end apparel manufacturing, jewelry making, and even set-design and costumes for the Broadway stages.

Unfortunately, such businesses face obstacles in finding affordable real estate in the City's manufacturing zones as a result of the wide range of entertainment, office, and retail uses that are permitted as-of-right in manufacturing-zoned areas. The City has, to some extent, provided safe-havens from the real estate market through direct and indirect oversight of the Brooklyn Army Terminal (BAT), Brooklyn Navy Yard (BNY), and Bush Terminal. It has also assisted industrial non-profits such as Evergreen and GMDC in expanding their portfolios of below-market rental space for such uses by creating permanently affordable space for small to medium-sized manufacturers who employ New Yorkers from every strata: high school to college graduates; life-long city residents to recent immigrants, and workers developing their skill sets to those trained in specific trades.

Borough President Adams believes that the Required Industrial Use space that results from the granting of the Special Permit to developments such as 25 Kent Avenue, 12 Franklin Street, and 103 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street is a public benefit that should optimize opportunities for manufacturing firms to secure affordable rents and long-term leases. By finding space in such buildings, manufacturing uses would benefit from below-market rental opportunities, which would help maintain an active and competitive manufacturing sector in New York City.

Borough President Adams believes that it is appropriate public policy to exclude UG 17 manufacturing processes limited exclusively to digital format product from the Required Industrial Use floor area. As opposed to achieving such outcome on a case-by-case basis each time the IBIA Special Permit is requested, Borough President Adams believes that in order to maintain the integrity of Required Industrial Use floor area for manufacturing businesses, such remedy should be codified in the ZR through further amending ZR Section 74-961 definition of Required Industrial Uses, to exclude processes limited exclusively to digital format product from UG 17. Therefore, the City Council should seek assurances from DCP that it would undertake a zoning text amendment to modify the ZR Section 74-961 definition of Required Industrial Use to exclude manufacturing processes in UG 17 in which they are limited to a product exclusively of digital format.

## Realizing Appropriate Public Purpose Benefit by Adequately Regulating the Extent of Accessory Retail as Part of Required Industrial Use Floor Area

As noted in a previous section, Borough President Adams has concerns about manufacturing establishments with business plans that rely on a significant dining, drinking and/or retail floor area footprint that would diminish the public purpose of establishing Required Industrial Use floor area, by defining such use as nearly 50 percent of such establishment, as accessory to the primary permitted UG according to ZR Section 74-961 as a 11A, 16A, 16B, 17B, 17C, and/or 18A use establishment. Borough President Adams believes that defining dining, drinking, and/or retail to such an extent undermines the public benefit of realizing Required Industrial Use floor area, as such aspects of operation allow business plans to assume an ability to pay more rent than manufacturing operations that would not have the type of synergy to benefit from such a commercial component. As opposed to restricting such accessory commercial use on a case-by-case basis each time a such special permit is requested, he seeks to have clearly defined limits of the extent that Required Industrial Use floor area would be allotted for any supporting accessory dining, drinking, and retail operations.

Borough President Adams believes that it is appropriate to modify ZR Section 74-961 to limit Required Industrial Use accessory retail operations, specifically for UGs 6A, 6C, 7B, 7D, 8B, 8C, 10A, and 12, by permitting up to 100 sq. ft. without regard to the size of the Required Industrial

Use establishment's floor area, though not more than 1,000 sq. ft. or not exceeding 10 percent of floor area per establishment. Where a business plan supports an accessory use in excess of such size limitations, the floor area should be designated as permitted use floor area, incorporated in the development's C of O and be delineated as such on floor plans filed with DOB.

Borough President Adams believes it is appropriate public policy to modify the ZR Section 74-961 definition of Required Industrial Use to clarify that accessory retail uses should have size limitations. As opposed to achieving such outcome on a case-by-case basis for individual IBIA Special Permit applications, Borough President Adams believes that in order to maintain the integrity of Required Industrial Use floor area for manufacturing businesses, such remedy should be codified in the ZR by further amending the ZR Section 74-961 definition of Required Industrial Use, to specify limits to accessory dining, drinking, and retail floor area. Therefore, the City Council should seek assurances from DCP that it would undertake a zoning text amendment to modify ZR Section 74-961 Required Industrial Use accessory retail use to limit UGs 6A, 6C, 7B, 7D, 8B, 8C, 10A, and 12 by permitting up to 100 sq. ft. without regard to the size of the Required Industrial Use floor area, though not more than 1,000 sq. ft. based on no such use being more than 10 percent of floor area per establishment.

Facilitating Investment in the M1-1 Zoning District in the Greenpoint-Williamsburg IBZ When the Special Permit was initially proposed in 2016, the section of the Greenpoint-Williamsburg IBZ zoned M1-1 has not experienced the same degree of manufacturing displacement as the M1-2 zone. As such, a development-inducing mechanism was not deemed warranted for the M1-1 district, in the context of growing and preserving the IBZ's manufacturing job base.

The 2005 Greenpoint-Williamsburg Rezoning converted the majority of an M3-1 district to M1-2. The rezoned blocks retained the 2.0 commercial floor area permitted by M3-1 zoning, but gained community facility FAR (4.8), which does not exist for M2 and M3 manufacturing districts. In essence, the rezoning enabled the creation of the Special Permit for the designated IBIA in 2016 by granting the 4.8 community facility FAR that potential applicants could utilize to maximize buildout potential for eligible lots in the M1-2 zone.

However, the 2005 rezoning left a considerable number of blocks in the M1-1 district that formerly served as a buffer between the M3-1 blocks and residential blocks further inland. Examining the boundary between the M1-1 and the rezoned M1-2 districts reveals that the boundary line warrants reconsideration. The remaining M1-1 zoned blocks include a number of light industrial and manufacturing businesses, the property owners of which have stated that it would be beneficial to enlarge their buildings. Changing their zoning to M1-2, where appropriate, would provide a pathway for businesses to expand within their current spaces. This would enable the growth of business operations, increasing local employment opportunities and economic benefits citywide. Such DCP-sponsored rezoning might encourage these property owners to resist the temptation to convert their developments to eating and drinking establishments — including entertainment venues, hotels, and retail uses. Borough President Adams urges DCP to undertake corrective action to properly map the M1-1 designated blocks in the Greenpoint-Williamsburg IBZ as M1-2 and have the IBIA Special Permit made applicable in order to facilitate appropriate investment in the amended M1-2 designated blocks.

Borough President Adams recognizes that some of the blocks in the IBZ zoned primarily M1-1 include properties that might not be deemed appropriate for rezoning to M1-2 based on consideration for adjacent residential development in terms of density and height. Nevertheless, such property owners may benefit by being able to utilize the additional community facility zoning floor area as commercial floor area according to the ZR Section 74-962 IBIA Special Permit as a productive redevelopment of their property, as opposed to repositioning existing manufacturing or

warehousing space as eating and drinking establishments — including entertainment venues, hotels, and retail uses. Conversely, the lack of opportunity to expand Required Industrial Use floor area according to the Special Permit could potentially result in the loss of manufacturing and warehousing establishments in the M1-1 district.

Borough President Adams believes it is appropriate to expand the applicability of the Special Permit to properties that would be appropriately retained in the M1-1 zoning district. Where it is not appropriate to establish the M1-2 district, Borough President Adams seeks for the IBIA Special Permit Special Permit to be made applicable in order to facilitate appropriate investment in the existing M1-1 designated blocks. He urges DCP to undertake corrective action to designated M1-1 blocks in the Greenpoint-Williamsburg IBZ to make the Special Permit applicable in order to facilitate appropriate investment in the existing M1-1 designated blocks.

Therefore, Borough President Adams believes it is appropriate for DCP to undertake a zoning study to determine where in the Greenpoint-Williamsburg IBZ it is appropriate to change the M1-1 zoning to M1-2, and extend the applicability of ZR Section 74-96 IBIA Special Permit to all of the blocks in the M1-2 district. At the completion of such a zoning study, DCP should then file applications to amend the zoning map and text accordingly to amend ZR Section 74-96 to include the entire M1-2 zoning district area and to make the Special Permit applicable to M1-1 zoned properties in the IBZ with customized regulations reflecting that such a zone permits half the community facility floor area of an M1-2 district. Such regulations should include: modification of ZR Section 74-962, with regard to the M1-1 floor area increase standard, to be consistent with the M1-1 maximum community facility floor area of 2.4 FAR, and, modification of ZR Section 74-962 (b)(3) to require a maximum permitted street wall height of 50 feet and a maximum height of 60 feet, or 75 feet where a public plaza is provided.

## <u>Amending the Industrial Business Incentive Area (IBIA) Special Permit Regulations to Enhance Utilization</u>

Borough President Adams believes that the intent of the IBIA Special Permit is diminished by the fact that the text stipulates a minimum zoning lot size requirement of 5,000 sq. ft. of horizontally contiguous Required Industrial Use space, and precludes the use of the Special Permit for zoning lots in the M1-1 zoning district. Furthermore, applicants seeking to rectify archaic automobile parking and truck loading berth requirements face additional costs that are particularly burdensome for smaller properties. Altogether, many properties in the Greenpoint-Williamsburg IBZ are ineligible or unlikely to apply for the zoning text amendment to ZR Section 74-96 to be eligible to pursue ZR 74-962 IBIA Special Permit. As noted in the previous section, the inability to utilize Special Permit renders such properties vulnerable to conversion from traditional manufacturing use groups to more profitable hotel as well as eating and drinking establishments — including entertainment venues and retail uses.

This trend would likely be magnified by such uses seeking proximity to the disposable incomes of future employees at 25 Kent Avenue, 12 Franklin Street, and 103 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street if more compelling alternatives are not available to property owners of smaller lots and M1-1 zoned-lots in the IBZ. In order to reap the potential economic benefits associated with the IBIA Special Permit, Borough President Adams believes that it is important to advocate for all industrial property owners to maximize profitability in a manner that produces future floor area restricted to Required Industrial Use.

## Extending Applicability to All Zoning Lots

Currently, the Special Permit requires a minimum of 5,000 sq. ft. of horizontally contiguous Required Industrial Use per floor. An analysis by the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President found dozens of properties within the Greenpoint-Williamsburg IBZ whose zoning lot size do not

exceed 5,000 sq. ft. The regulations act as a deterrent by disqualifying these properties from applying for a zoning text amendment to ZR Section 74-96 to be eligible to pursue ZR Section 74-962 IBIA Special Permit as a means to accommodate additional commercial floor area on these smaller properties. Borough President Adams believes that generating even smaller quantities of permanently protected Required Industrial Use floor area is an appropriate public policy benefit, especially given that start-up firms typically seek smaller spaces. He believes that it would be appropriate to reduce the horizontally contiguous floor plate requirement for Required Industrial Uses to as little as 1,000 sq. ft. as a means to accommodate zoning lots as small as 2,000 to 2,500 sq. ft. Therefore, Borough President Adams believes that the Special Permit should be applicable to zoning lots without minimum lot size. Rather, it would be appropriate to seek modification of ZR Section 74-962 (b)(1) conditions for minimum amount of business enhancing use floor area to be no less than 1,000 sq. ft. of horizontally contiguous floor area.

## Reducing Parking and Loading Berth Requirements

Under M1-1 and M1-2 zoning districts, parking and loading berth requirements are primarily based on car-centric, outer-borough policies. However, the recent trend has been to accommodate the growing market of innovation firms and light industrial businesses in proximity to the neighborhoods where their employees reside. This enables such workforce to be much less dependent on automobiles to commute, which is entirely in contrast to the standard requirements of both the M1-1 and M1-2 zoning districts.

Current requirements include a provision (ZR Section 44-22) that is based on the most burdensome use whereby the developer always has to provide the highest required number of parking spaces in case of future conversion to a use that might require more parking. ZR Section 44-21 requires one parking space per 300 sq. ft. of floor area. The basis for such a requirement is to allow for eventual return of commercial occupancy to a light manufacturing use.

According to the IBIA Special Permit, findings are required in order to justify any parking and loading berth reductions. The associated extensive studies and expensive traffic consultant costs make the permit less attractive to owners of smaller businesses and properties. Set standards would make the permit more applicable to other users who may not otherwise be able to afford the costs associated with completing the necessary studies, while right-sizing vehicle parking requirements.

Borough President Adams believes that in order to appropriately establish parking requirements within the Greenpoint-Williamsburg IBZ for developments approved by the IBIA Special Permit, it is necessary to modify regulations in ZR Section 74-963 by introducing a zoning text change that would incorporate a more reasonable zoning district standard for parking without the need to undertake a traffic generation study. The most fitting example can be found in ZR Section 36-21 for C8-3 zoning districts, for Commercial Use Groups 6-16, which requires one parking space per 1,000 sq. ft. of floor area. Furthermore, ZR Section 44-22 should be made inapplicable as it is not logical to suspect that new office development pursuant to the Special Permit would revert to light manufacturing or warehouse use.

To simplify the burden of parking requirements on smaller developments, Borough President Adams believes it is appropriate to introduce a zoning text change to regulate automatic waiving of required parking according to ZR Section 36-232 for C8-3 zoning districts. ZR Section 36-232 for C8-3 zoning districts precludes the applicability of parking requirements to commercial uses if the total number of accessory off-street parking spaces required for all such uses on the zoning lot is fewer than 40. Should the amendment otherwise be applicable to the M1-1 zoning district, the resulting parking waiver standards for zoning lots under 18,000 sq. ft. would be eligible for a waiver of parking requirements. Any applicant for the Special Permit pursuant to ZR Section 74-

963 would still have the option of exceeding the automatic standard reductions upon provision of supportive studies, contingent on CPC approval.

To further alleviate the pressure of providing excess vehicle parking, and to promote a more sustainable form of transportation, Borough President Adams believes it would also be appropriate to introduce a zoning text change that would allow developers to offset the required vehicle parking as-of-right as part of the IBIA Special Permit by providing more bicycle parking. Currently, ZR Section 44-60 requires the provision of one bicycle parking space per 10,000 sq. ft. of floor area. Borough President Adams believes that developers providing bicycle parking spaces above and beyond this requirement should be permitted, through the Special Permit, to offset one vehicle parking space per each bicycle parking space, for up to 33 percent of the otherwise required car parking spaces.

## Loading

ZR Section 44-54 requires that 50 percent of the floor area be subject to loading berth requirements for manufacturing use, for buildings with both manufacturing (Required Industrial Use) and commercial (Permitted Use) floor area. For manufacturing floor area between 140,000 sq. ft. and 220,000 sq. ft., the requirement is five loading berths. The remaining floor area is subject to the requirement of five loading berths for commercial floor area between 120,000 sq. ft. and 200,000 sq. ft. For a predominantly commercial building, such onerous loading berth requirements are just as archaic as the aforementioned parking requirements. Requiring consultant analysis could potentially deter property owners from engaging in the IBIA Special Permit process. Borough President Adams believes that off-street loading berth requirements under ZR Section 36-92, per the C8-3 zoning district, are appropriate for Special Permit-driven development.

According to C8-3 zoning district standards pursuant to ZR Section 36-92, no loading berths are required for manufacturing use in developments not exceeding 8,000 sq. ft. or up to 25,000 sq. ft. for retail use and up to 100,000 sq. ft. for office use. For example, one loading berth is required for manufacturing and retail use in a 40,000 sq. ft. development, and for office use of up to 200,000 sq. ft. Two loading berths are required for manufacturing use in developments of up to 80,000 sq. ft., for retail use of up to 100,000 sq. ft., and office use of up to 500,000 sq. ft. Three loading berths are required for manufacturing use in developments of up to 160,000 sq. ft., for retail of up to 250,000 sq. ft., and office use up to 800,000 sq. ft. Borough President Adams believes that, in lieu of ZR Section 44-54, it is appropriate for minimum off-street truck loading berth requirements to be applicable to ZR Section 36-92 per the C8-3 zoning district standard.

Therefore, in order to improve the attractiveness of the IBIA Special Permit to all property owners within the M1-1 and M1-2 zoning districts in the Greenpoint-Williamsburg IBZ, as a means to minimize vulnerability to conversion from traditional manufacturing use groups to more profitable hotel and eating and drinking establishments — including entertainment venues and retail uses — and to encourage the enlargement and/or redevelopment of existing buildings through the provision of floor area that accommodates Required Industrial Uses, Borough President Adams believes that DCP should incorporate in the aforementioned zoning text amendment to ZR Section 74-96, Special Permit parking and loading berth reductions that would be as-of-right per the C8-3 zoning district.

### Appropriate Special Permit Safeguards

Within new parking garages, it has become more common to utilize stacked parking lifts in combination with horizontal parking of vehicles within new parking garages. Stacked parking necessitates the provision of parking attendants in order to move and rearrange parked vehicles. The efficiency of such a parking garage helps deter drivers from double parking or searching area

streets for limited on-street parking. Double parking can disrupt vehicle movement and shift traffic to residential streets. The search for street parking brings drivers into competition for a limited resource with those already living and working in the area. Therefore, the operation of garages has significant quality-of-life impacts within the community.

In accordance with ZR Section 74-963 IBIA Special Permit, the zoning text directs CPC to prescribe appropriate conditions to minimize adverse effects on neighborhood character. Borough President Adams believes that this section should explicitly direct CPC to consider setting forth a minimum number of parking attendants based on the hour of day and day of the week according to the intended hours of operation for establishments within the building. Additionally, the ZR's provision regarding accessory parking pursuant to Article 4 Chapter 4 does not provide any use restrictions for a development's parking spaces. Therefore, with proper management of this attended parking resource, Borough President Adams believes parking garages resulting from such approved special permits could serve as a fee-based community amenity for local employees and residents.

Therefore, Borough President Adams believes that DCP should incorporate in the aforementioned zoning text amendment to ZR Section 74-96, to have the Special Permit's appropriate conditions allow CPC the authority to determine the appropriate number of parking attendees, as warranted.

### Recommendation

Be it resolved that the Brooklyn borough president, pursuant to Sections 197-c and 201 of the New York City Charter, recommends that the City Planning Commission (CPC) and the City Council approve this application with the following conditions:

- 1. That for 190084 ZSK, the 103 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street floor plans shall be modified as follows:
  - a. Notate the exclusion of manufacturing processes in Use Group (UG) 17 limited to product of exclusively digital format, and that Required Industrial Use accessory retail use (UGs 6A, 6C, 7B, 7D, 8B, 8C, 10A, and 12) be limited by permitting up to 100 square feet without regard to the size of the Required Industrial Use floor area, though not more than 1,000 square feet based on not being more than 10 percent of floor area per establishment
  - b. Label a segment of the cellar floor plan (drawing No. A-06) for Required Industrial Use at a rate of one square foot (sq. ft.) to 3.5 sq. ft. exclusive of floor area used for vertical circulation and building support floor area (e.g. mechanical closets, etc.)
- 2. That in order to supplement enforcement safeguards, the City Council shall seek a binding commitment from the applicant that requires wall-mount signage depicting floor plans of the Required Industrial Use area consistent with Special Permit application drawing No. A-06 Cellar Floor Plan and A-07 Level 2 & 3 Floor Plans along walls opposite elevator doors, and the corridor boundary entering/exiting the Required Industrial Use area
- 3. That prior to considering the application, the City Council obtain commitments, in writing, from the developer, North 13 Holdings LLC, that would memorialize
  - a. Exploration of additional resiliency and sustainability measures such as incorporating blue/green/white roof treatment, DEP rain gardens, passive house design, and/or solar panels
  - b. Retention of Brooklyn-based contractors and subcontractors, especially those who are designated local business enterprises (LBEs) consistent with Section 6-108.1 of the City's

Administrative Code, and minority- and women-owned business enterprises (MWBEs), as a means to meet or exceed standards per Local Law 1 (no less than 20 percent participation), as well as coordinate the oversight of such participation by an appropriate monitoring agency

## Be It Further Resolved:

- That in order to facilitate maximum opportunity for manufacturing uses to benefit from public policy that seeks to provide dedicated floor area for such uses, as part of Required Industrial Use dedicated floor area, from essentially office-like manufacturing processes and excessive retail use, the City Council should seek assurances from the New York City Department of City Planning (DCP) that it would undertake a zoning text amendment as follows:
  - a. Modify the New York City Zoning Resolution (ZR) Section 74-961 definition of Required Industrial Use to exclude manufacturing processes in UG 17 where such processes are limited to product exclusively of digital format
  - b. Modify ZR Section 74-961 Required Industrial Use accessory retail use to limit UGs 6A, 6C, 7B, 7D, 8B, 8C, 10A, and 12 by permitting up to 100 sq. ft. without regard to the size of the Required Industrial Use floor area, though not more than 1,000 sq. ft. based on no such use being more than 10 percent of floor area per establishment
- 2. That in order to facilitate the enlargement of existing buildings in the M1-1 zoning district in the Greenpoint-Williamsburg Industrial Business Zone (IBZ) and discourage nearby displacement of industrial uses, the City Council should call for wider applicability of the Special Permit by mapping the entire IBZ, including its M1-1 zoning district, and seeking assurances from DCP that it would advance a zoning map and text amendment as follows:
  - a. Undertake a study of the M1-1 blocks to determine the extent that it would be appropriate to upzone such blocks to M1-2, and then implement such a rezoning
  - b. Undertake a zoning text amendment to amend ZR Section 74-96 to make the Special Permit applicable to M1-1 properties in the Greenpoint-Williamsburg IBZ and to include:
    - i. An M1-1 floor area increase standard modification of ZR Section 74-962 consistent with the M1-1 maximum community facility floor area ratio (FAR) of 2.4
    - ii. Modification of ZR Section 74-962 (b)(3) conditions for maximum permitted street wall height to 50 feet and maximum height to 60 feet, though where a public plaza is provided, the maximum height may be 75 feet
- 3. That in order to improve the attractiveness of the Industrial Business Incentive Area (IBIA) Special Permit to property owners, make applicable to very small lots, prepare an application to amend ZR Section 74-96 as follows:
  - a. That the Special Permits be applicable to zoning lots without any minimum lot size

- b. That for zoning lots of up to 6,000 square feet, modify ZR Section 74-962 (b)(1) conditions for minimum amount of Required Industrial Use floor area to be not less than 1,000 square feet of horizontally contiguous floor area
- 4. That in order to appropriately establish more appropriate parking and loading berth requirements for developments within the Greenpoint-Williamsburg IBZ seeking the Special Permit for floor area increase pursuant to ZR Section 74-962 and ZR Section 74-963, the City Council should seek assurances from DCP that it would undertake a zoning text amendment that would:
  - a. Regulate Commercial Use Groups 6-16, according to ZR Section 36-21 for a C8-3 zoning designation, and make ZR Section 44-22 inapplicable
  - b. Permit every bicycle parking space provided above and beyond the requirement of ZR Section 44-60 to reduce automobile parking by one space for up to 33 percent of the required number of automobile parking spaces
  - c. Regulate automatic waiving of required parking according to ZR Section 36-232 for a C8-3 zoning designation
  - d. Specifically note that the CPC may prescribe a set standard for a number of parking attendants as an additional condition and safeguard to minimize adverse effects on the character of the surrounding area
  - e. Regulate minimum off-street loading berth requirements for truck loading to be applicable to ZR Section 36-92 instead of Zoning Section 44-54, per the C8-3 District
  - f. Restrict CPC findings (a) (d) for applications seeking to exceed such automatic reductions