



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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STATEMENT FROM COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN ON JUDGE ENGORON'S RULING

NEW YORK – Judge Arthur Engoron on Thursday, August 1 ruled in favor of the New York City Council and Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer in their lawsuit contending that the proposed mega tower developments in the Two Bridges neighborhood must go through the public review process.

In 2016, the Department of City Planning contended in a 'staff level determination' that the proposed projects for the Two Bridges site, which would soar over the current low-rise neighborhood as tall as 80 stories--are merely "minor modifications" to the existing large scale residential development and do not require a ULURP approval process.

The lawsuit brought by Brewer and the City Council argued that the "minor modification" analysis is simply nonsense and that these projects effectively rewrite the Special Permits granted in the area, and demanded that these projects go through public review.

The court found “(t)he irreparable harm here is two-fold. First, a community will be drastically altered without having had its proper say. Second, and arguably more important, allowing this project to proceed without the City Council’s imprimatur would distort the City’s carefully crafted system of checks and balances. Under ULURP, the City Council’s mandatory role is not merely to advise, but to grant or deny final approval (with the Mayor). Without ULURP, the City’s legislature is cut out of the picture entirely.”

"Judge Engoron’s ruling is a victory for the Two Bridges community and demonstrates the power of every day New Yorkers when they come together and fight,” said **Council Member Margaret S. Chin**. "For three years, we have rallied and petitioned. As a final step, we sued the City to trigger the public review process that the proposed mega towers in Two Bridges demanded. Through it all, I was motivated by a single goal—ensuring that the residents of Two Bridges have a say in the future of their neighborhood. Judge Engoron’s decision vindicates our efforts and, just as importantly, empowers the voices of those most impacted by the displacement and gentrification of the proposed mega towers. I want to thank Speaker Johnson for his inclusive and courageous leadership and Borough President Brewer for her invaluable partnership. Finally, I want to extend my gratitude to the Two Bridges community for their steadfast commitment to the public review process.”

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