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JUN 5, 2019

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CM CHIN, BP BREWER RALLY SUPPORTERS BEFORE HEARING OF TWO BRIDGES LAWSUIT

NEW YORK – Wednesday morning, Council Member Margaret Chin and Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer were joined by advocates to rally supporters before a hearing regarding the lawsuit Brewer and the New York City Council filed against the City and the developers of the site.

The Department of City Planning contended in a 2016 '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" and do not require a ULURP approval process. The lawsuit brought by Brewer and the City Council contends that the "minor modification" analysis is simply nonsense and that these projects effectively rewrite the Special Permits granted in the area, and demands that these projects be considered under public review.

"From the beginning, I have worked to ensure the residents of Two Bridges have a say in the future of their neighborhood," said **Council Member Margaret S. Chin**.

"Together, we have rallied, petitioned and ultimately sued the City to force this mega tower development through the public review process it demands. Today, we are calling for a complete stop to all development of this site. To build a fairer City, the voices of those New Yorkers who are most impacted by displacement and gentrification should not be ignored."

"I have been fighting for a simple right for years: the right for New Yorkers to have a say in how their neighborhoods are developed," said **Manhattan Borough President**

Gale A. Brewer. "This is as far from a 'minor modification' as you can get--these are four towers ranging from 63 to about 80 stories high in a neighborhood that's low-rise. While I'm disappointed that we had to go to court over this, I am confident that we will prevail and these projects will be required to undergo public review."

"Two Bridges, Chinatown, and Lower East Side are historic and vibrant working-class neighborhoods that define the character of Lower Manhattan," said **Melanie Wang, Lead Chinatown Tenants Union Organizer at CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities.** "These luxury mega-towers were allowed to get by with unconscionably flawed environmental and public review, and for the sake of our community's future, we cannot not let that go. We will stand together today in the courtroom to demand an adequate review process for these developments, in addition to community-led planning and zoning for the future of Lower Manhattan."

"CB 3 has voted that the proposed towers should not be permitted as a minor modification. We have also voted that this project should come to the community for full public review, as mandated by City Charter," said **Jacky Wong, chair of Community Board 3 Land Use Committee.** "The Community Board and the community should not be cut out of this charter mandated process. This will undermine the role of community boards in the land use planning process in New York City. The proposed projects in Two Bridges are extremely out of scale with the surrounding neighborhood. They not only block resident's access to light and air but will also create traffic congestion. The adding of more than 2000 market rate will place such a burden on the community of mostly low income, people of color, and immigrants, and will heighten residential displacement pressure on this community. CB 3 wants to thank Borough President Brewer and Council Member Chin for their leadership on this issue and we stand behind their legal effort in bringing these projects before the community for a full public review."

"We ask the courts today to save our Two Bridges neighborhood from this monstrous "major modification" which includes a proposal for a 1,000ft super-tall atop an existing 10 story senior building," said **Trever Holland of Tuff-LES.**

"We need affordable housing not luxury apartments," said **Felicia Cruikshank of the LaGuardia Houses Residents Association.** "No more towers on the water front!"