



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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CITY DELAYS TWO BRIDGES SCOPING PROCESS IN RESPONSE TO ELECTED OFFICIALS & COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Lack of equal language access cited in request for delay by Council Member Chin and Borough President Brewer

CITY HALL – Council Member Margaret S. Chin and Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer praised the decision announced today by the Department of City Planning to delay the scoping hearing for three proposed developments in the Two Bridges neighborhood of Manhattan.

Scoping is an essential part of a joint Environmental Impact Statement process by which the community can learn more about the proposed developments and comment on their potential to collectively impact their neighborhood.

As a result of this decision, scoping will be pushed back from an originally announced April 27 hearing date to May 25, allowing for more time for the review of important project documents like the scoping notice that has been translated into Chinese and Spanish.

“The Two Bridges community needs time to consider all of the impacts of these massive development projects – and that requires the release of information in a language that they can understand,” said **Council Member Margaret S. Chin**. “That is why I joined Borough President Brewer to fight for more time for the community to arrive at a consensus about its needs and desired outcomes. In order to achieve this goal, I will continue to fight to ensure that residents and business owners in Two Bridges are heard.”

“When it comes to protecting our communities’ rights in the land use and environmental review processes, I believe in dotting every ‘i’ and crossing every ‘t,’” said **Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer**. “Public disclosure and public review are only meaningful if they’re accessible to everyone, and in this neighborhood, that means materials need to be available in Chinese and Spanish. I’m glad that the city has pushed back this scoping process and will give residents and local businesses more opportunity to figure out what they’ll need if these developments move forward.”

On March 17, Council Member Chin and Borough President Brewer wrote a letter to the developers of the three proposed projects at Two Bridges, urging them to delay the EIS Scoping Hearing to allow for more community input. The developers denied that request.

Undeterred, Chin and Brewer wrote a letter on March 28 to City Planning to delay the hearing to allow for equal language access. Currently, scoping documents – including information about the size of the projects and their potential impact on roadways, public transit and schools– are only available in English, despite the large number of Spanish and Chinese speakers in the neighborhood.

The EIS Scoping Hearing will be held on May 25 at the Municipal Building, 1 Centre St., Mezzanine Level. The first session will begin at 2 p.m., with a second session to follow at 6 p.m. All residents and business owners are encouraged to attend. Please note that there will be language services on site.

[Letters from Chin and Brewer requesting a delay in the EIS Scoping Hearing, as well as DCP's response, are attached.]

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