

**MARCH, 2004**

**Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn Position Statement**

**NO ONE** wants a secret, taxpayer subsidized sweetheart deal forced on the community. We want a development plan that maximizes its benefits for Brooklyn, rather than for Forest City Ratner.

**DEVELOP DON'T DESTROY BROOKLYN** leads a broad-based community coalition fighting for development that unites our communities instead of dividing and destroying them.

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**WE OPPOSE** the anti-democratic process that Forest City Ratner has used and continues to use to push his arena development plan on the people of Brooklyn without our input or consent.

**WE SUPPORT** community-based proposals and a fair, public, democratic, and transparent development process. We support proposals that allow our communities, the people who live, work and run small businesses in Brooklyn, to shape our futures. This is best accomplished through the City's ULURP process. (A visionary plan to develop the Atlantic Rail Yards can be found at: [www.dddb.net/public/AYDWS.pdf](http://www.dddb.net/public/AYDWS.pdf))

**WE SUPPORT** local hiring, local businesses, sustainable jobs, job training, career development and truly affordable housing.

**WE SUPPORT** utilizing the Brooklyn model of horizontal density found in the communities surrounding the proposed site.

**WE SUPPORT** an RFP (Request for Proposals), open-bidding for multiple developers, and an independent appraisal for the MTA-owned rail yards.

**WE OPPOSE** the use of eminent domain for Mr. Ratner's private development; its use for this proposal is inappropriate, abusive, and appears to be unconstitutional.

**WE OPPOSE** the use of taxpayer subsidies for a private arena. We oppose the use of taxpayer subsidies for a high-rise, private, for-profit development in brownstone Brooklyn.