

June 14, 2019

Dear Council Member Menchaca,

We represent the residents, neighbors, workers, and community members of Sunset Park, and we demand that you stop the Industry City rezoning immediately.

As you know, Sunset Park is primarily immigrant, low-income, working class. In the past decade, though unemployment has remained relatively low, our rents and cost of living has increased by over 63%, over half of the households are rent burdened, and families have been forced to move into overcrowded conditions or leave altogether in order to survive.

The Industry City rezoning, a developer driven rezoning plan, will turn our community into a playground for the wealthy, drive real estate speculation and drastically increase rents and cost of living for current and long time residents and workers. If passed, this rezoning will accelerate developer-led spot rezonings. We will lose our housing, our jobs, our friends and the place we call home. This is not what we want for the future of our community.

The few jobs that Industry City might create will be to the detriment of the vibrant and diverse immigrant communities that over decades have built Sunset Park to be the wonderful neighborhood it is. This rezoning will actually destroy jobs because it will destroy the existing small businesses that cannot compete with Industry City's rising rents.

As Chair of Committee on Immigration, it is your duty to support and protect Sunset Park's immigrant community. The policies of Bill de Blasio and Department of City Planning are subsidizing luxury development at the expense of working class immigrant families. The Industry City rezoning proposal is directly contradictory to New York City being a sanctuary for immigrants, when immigrant families can no longer afford to live here. In the end it will only be a sanctuary for the rich.

As you said in your letter to Industry City, the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) process has historically failed the community. Therefore we ask that you, our City Council representative, carry out decisions in the interests of the majority low income people of color and immigrant working families and publicly state "No" to the Industry City rezoning. Delay in process is not enough, we need to end it now. We await a response by July 31st.

Sincerely,

Protect Sunset Park
Artists Against Displacement
BAD Barcode

Sunset Park for a Liberated Future
Youth Against Displacement

Cc: Public Advocate Jumaane Williams; City Council Speaker Corey Johnson; Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams; Congressman Jerrold Nadler; Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez; NY State Senator Zellnor Myrie; NY State Assemblymember Felix Ortiz