



City Council Member Carlos Menchaca NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL • DISTRICT 38

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For Immediate Release

STATEMENT FROM MENCHACA ON INDUSTRY CITY'S RESPONSE TO HIS SEPT 17 LETTER

September 19, 2019 New York, NY -

"After months of listening to my neighbors, I feel more sure that no matter what lies ahead for Sunset Park, we will build a better future for our neighborhood.

"The ideas I presented on Monday night are full of promise and opportunity for our neighborhood. That is why I am deeply disappointed with Industry City's response. While I commend Mr. Kimball for agreeing to modify Industry City's application, and expressing shared values, he failed to acknowledge the most important value of all, the one underwriting my conditions for success: accountability.

"The establishment of a group who would sign one end of a community benefits agreement has yet to be established, let alone a facilitator or legal counsel identified. Any attempt to rush through a rezoning process without the community being fully prepared to hold Industry City accountable is something I will never support.

Industry City can still do the right thing and agree to work with us to define a timeline that works for everyone. However, if they decide to certify their application on Monday, September 23rd as indicated in their letter, I will oppose their rezoning proposal and vote against it should it make it to the floor of the City Council.

"While saying no in this way concerns me, because it still leaves in place Industry City's ability to exacerbate Sunset Park's most pressing challenges, my commitment to accountability is greater, for the success of any policy depends on it.

"After my presentation and subsequent conversations with my neighbors in the days since, I know there is strong interest to create an effective community benefits agreement and pursue the agenda I outlined for addressing gentrification, displacement, rising rents, unpreparedness for climate change, and the preservation of our manufacturing and industrial waterfront.

"Moving forward, I invite Mr. Kimball to reconsider, but if he will not, then I look forward to working with the Sunset Park community, the Council, and the Mayor's office to build off my proposal for how we can address our challenges."