



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

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JOINT RESPONSE FROM COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA AND COMMUNITY BOARD 7 CHAIR CESAR ZUÑIGA TO MAYOR'S LETTER ON INDUSTRY CITY

December 23, 2019, New York, NY – Council Member Carlos Menchaca and Brooklyn Community Board 7 Chair Cesar Zuñiga issued the following statement in response to a letter sent by City Planning Executive Director Anita Laremont on December 13, 2019. The letter was a response to the pair's request on November 4, 2019 to meet with the Mayor's top advisors to discuss the Industry City rezoning:

“While we appreciate the Mayor's response, we are extremely disappointed by its lack of urgency, and the offensive implication that there is no role for the City to play simply because Industry City's rezoning proposal is a private application - even though private applications are developed with the Department of City Planning's guidance, and the scale of this particular proposal is unprecedented.

“Industry City is redeveloping over 5 million square feet of property on Sunset Park's working waterfront. Their rezoning would unlock an additional 1 million square feet of commercial space. If approved, we are talking about an area twice the size of the Freedom Tower, comparable to many of the de Blasio Administration's own rezoning proposals.

“This is not any run-of-the-mill private application. It is the largest private application to rezone an industrial waterfront property ever in New York City's history. It proposes the most significant change to an Industrial Business Zone ever contemplated —areas this Administration has vowed to protect.

“As such, the consequences of this rezoning are legion and difficult to analyze or quantify precisely. The rezoning has the potential to create thousands of jobs, but it also

has the potential to exacerbate rising rents that are displacing our neighbors and harming local, immigrant-owned businesses.

“It also extremely unclear how the rezoning would preserve manufacturing on the waterfront or prepare it for climate change without serious modifications to the application, which are both goals outlined in numerous City developed plans and recommendations.

“To expect a community, even one as engaged, organized, and ready as Sunset Park, to clarify these concerns on its own without any assistance from the City’s vast resources and expertise is a slap in the face. It is also tone-deaf given that the majority of Sunset Park residents are people of color and nearly half of the population is foreign born.

“If this is how the Mayor responds to a community’s request for assistance and dialogue when facing the largest private rezoning application for one of the City’s last remaining industrial zones, it calls into question their commitment to strengthening and preserving the City’s manufacturing and industrial integrity on the waterfront.

“We do not want to believe that this Mayor only cares about upzoning land when he can claim credit for it, especially when he campaigned and constantly invokes the need to protect vulnerable New Yorkers from rich corporations. By not agreeing to meet and discuss a rezoning proposed by an incredibly powerful consortium of private developers and financiers, he is making a mockery of those claims.

“We believe the Mayor’s top advisors are eager to support Sunset Park. We will pursue a meeting as the Mayor’s letter indicates. This rezoning and the future of our neighborhood is too important not to discuss fully.”

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