



STATEMENT OF THE COALITION FOR COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT  
ON THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL'S VOTE ON  
THE EAST NEW YORK PLAN

On this day, decades in the making, when the New York City Council finally votes on a plan for our local community, we weigh the positives against what is problematic in the East New York Plan.

Positively, the Coalition thanks Council Member Rafael Espinal for the hours he spent with members of the Coalition listening to the needs of his constituents. We also thank him for his openness to the community's alternative vision for development and all the positive changes that he was able to secure in the plan.

Because of this, our community can celebrate aspects of the plan that reflect the Coalition's tireless advocacy. These are (1) the removal of Arlington Village from the rezone area so that truly affordable housing for local residents can be built in an area desperately needing it; (2) a small homes preservation fund to ensure that the American dream of homeownership does not shrivel up and die for African-Americans and Latinos in East New York/Cypress Hills; (3) a scaling back of the re-zone area to preserve manufacturing and small business sites and reduce the impact of market rate units; (4) creation of a Workforce 1 Center so that East New York residents can earn a living wage; and (5) accountability and reporting measures aimed toward ensuring that the proposed law, and its pledge of units, does not end up a bill of goods as similar rezonings have been for our friends to the East in Williamsburg and Greenpoint and other communities in the past.

However, the Coalition has no choice but to lament how, on the fundamental measures of affordable housing and community resources, the plan fails East New York's residents. The doors to the "affordable" housing to be built will be closed to at least a third of neighborhood residents due to their income. Before, they at least lived in the second of two cities, the one far away from all the milk and honey hoarded in skyscraping silos; now they simply have no New York City as there no



will longer be an affordable place for them here. And there is certainly enough “milk and honey” in New York City for a plan that would allow current residents to stay and share in the City’s abundance.

Those who are fortunate enough to remain in East New York will face a grim fight over scarcity that the influx of new faces will produce. Once all the new housing is constructed, there will simply not be enough schools, police, and fire protection for East New Yorkers and new residents. And without the stronger anti-displacement measures and efforts to dampen rampant real estate speculation that we proposed, we fear that thousands of our neighbors will be forced out by the waves of gentrification.

Today, we celebrate what provides our primary source of hope: the community’s energy, passion, vision, and hard work. We remain committed to advocating for deeper affordability and stronger protections for low income renters, small homeowners and small businesses in our community. We will stand strong to hold the Administration accountable for the commitments made in this plan, and we will support residents of other neighborhoods slated for rezoning.