



## **BROOKLYNITES EAGER FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

### ***20,000 PEOPLE, AND COUNTING, RESPOND TO FCRC MAILER. MAJORITY REQUEST MORE INFORMATION ON AFFORDABLE UNITS AT PROPOSED ATLANTIC YARDS DEVELOPMENT***

(Brooklyn, NY) – June 13, 2006 – Approximately 20,000 people have thus far responded to a Forest City Ratner Companies (FCRC) mailer sent in May that included a tear-off response card that allowed respondents to check off the aspect of the project most important to them. The vast majority of respondents said affordable housing was the most important aspect of the development. The card also allowed them to ask for more information about housing applications once they become available.

“The mailer was an effort to provide more information on the proposed development,” said Bruce Bender, the executive vice president in charge of government and community affairs at FCRC. “While we of course know there is a tremendous need for affordable housing in the borough, we were surprised by the response to date.”

Mr. Bender explained that the affordable and middle-income housing program will be handled via a lottery system as required by City rules. People who have sent back a reply card or have sent an email to [housing@atlanticyards.com](mailto:housing@atlanticyards.com) asking for more information about Atlantic Yards housing will receive a letter outlining the program and next steps in the coming weeks. The returned cards also allowed respondents to list how long they have lived in Brooklyn. “While we have not gone through all 20,000 cards in detail,” Mr. Bender said, “a quick survey suggests that many long-time residents, some living here for 20 plus years, are very concerned about the lack of housing in Brooklyn.”

FCRC developed the affordable and middle-income housing program in partnership with New York ACORN, the advocacy organization that works on housing and related issues.

Bertha Lewis, the executive director of New York ACORN, said, “We all know there is a tremendous need for housing given the lack of affordable housing in Brooklyn, the fear of losing a current apartment, and the sorry condition of many buildings inhabited by low-income families. But the number of responses is a clear indication that this type of innovative development is needed in Brooklyn and throughout the City.”

The program specifies that a minimum of 2,250 rental apartments be low- and middle-income housing. The target rent for these units is 30% of household income. And 50 percent of these units will be two and three bedrooms. Ten percent of the units will be set aside for seniors.

All of the units will be integrated in the larger housing component of the project, which calls for a total 6,860 units (the 4,500 rentals plus 2,360 market-rate condominiums). FCRC has also agreed to build between 600 and 1,000 affordable condos on or off site.

Anyone who did not send in a reply card or has not already signed up to receive more information and would like to be notified when the affordable or middle-income housing applications become available, is encouraged to send an email to [housing@atlanticyards.com](mailto:housing@atlanticyards.com) with their contact information.