

Board of Directors

November 19, 2025

Berel Hildeshaim
Chairman

Councilmember Gale Brewer
563 Columbus Ave

Shmuel Rosenstein
Vice Chairman

New York, NY 10024

Email: district6@council.nyc.gov

Meir New
Treasurer

Re: Public City Council Hearing & Vote on Vital Brooklyn Kingsboro Psych

Yitzie Kamman
Secretary

Dear Councilmember Brewer,

Dovid Halon

NYS Urban Development Corporation d/b/a Empire State Development ("ESD") in collaboration with New York State Homes and Community Renewal ("HCR"), is sponsoring Vital Brooklyn Kingsboro Psych, a community development project pursuant to the NY State Urban Development Corporation Act ("UDC Act").

Zalman Friedman

**Chief Executive
Officer**

Rabbi Mendel
Marasow

As you have been recently made aware by a member of the public, it has been alleged that Section 14(2) of the UDC Act (Acquisition of Real Property from a Municipality...) provides the public with a right to a **city council public hearing** as, well as a **city council vote** approving the sale of city owned real property, like the subject property set to be developed, 681 Clarkson Ave, Brooklyn.

**Director of
Advocacy and
Community
Relations**
Rabbi Eli Cohen

(the "corporation" referred to below is the NYS Urban Development Corporation which is now called the NYS Empire State Development Corporation, which is the sponsor of the subject project)

NYS Urban Development Corporation Act – Section 14(2)

"(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of any general, special or local law or charter, any municipality, by resolution of its local governing body, is hereby empowered without referendum, public auction, sealed bids or public notice, to sell, lease for a term not exceeding ninety-nine years, grant or convey to the corporation any real property owned by it which the corporation shall certify to be necessary or convenient for its corporate purposes. Any such sale, lease, grant or conveyance shall be made with or without consideration and upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon by such municipality and the corporation. Certification shall be evidenced by a formal request from the president of the corporation. Before any such sale, lease, grant or conveyance may be made to the corporation, a public hearing shall be held by the local governing body to consider the same. Notice of such hearing shall be published at least ten days before the date set for the hearing in such publication and in such manner as may be designated by the local governing body." (emphasis added)

Funded by: NYS Council of the Arts • NYS Office of Victim Services • NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance • NYS Department of State • NYS Housing and Community Renewal • NYC Department of Youth and Community Development • NYC Department for the Aging • NYC Department of Cultural Affairs • United Way of NYC • National Grid • NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services
An affiliate of the Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty and the United Jewish Appeal/Federation

NYS UDC Act, Section 14(2)), <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/UDA/14>

*"Additionally, the City of New York's reversionary interest in the Project Site, which would be triggered by use of the Project Site for purposes other than State Hospital purposes, will be **extinguished by the City, in a quitclaim deed to ESD, in consideration of the Project's replacement of the two existing shelter facilities on the Project Site.**" (emphasis added)
(NYS ESD Vital Brooklyn Kingsboro Psych, Modified General Project Plan Affirmed as Modified March 22, 2025, pp. 6-7)
<https://esd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/Kingsboro-FINAL-MGPP.pdf>)*

Oversight of the public's right to a city council public hearing is particularly important because the Jewish community of Crown Heights and East Flatbush was excluded from providing initial community input by NYS Empire State Development by virtue of all of the Vital Brooklyn public meetings at the **planning and design stage** being held on Saturdays. (April 22, 2017, May 20, 2017, October 28, 2017, December 16, 2017). (See 43rd Assembly District Vital Brooklyn Community Proposal – June 10, 2018, p. 8)
https://assembly.state.ny.us/write/upload/member_files/043/pdfs/20180606_81884.pdf

This NYS project will have a serious environmental impact on the local community as acknowledged by the ESD's need to issue an Environmental Impact Statement.

You are the chair of the **Committee on Oversight and Investigations** which has jurisdiction over the property and government of NYC. <https://council.nyc.gov/committees/oversight-and-investigation/>

Therefore, we respectfully request that you clarify the urgent issue of whether NYS Empire State Development is bypassing the public's right to a city council public hearing and city council vote to approve Vital Brooklyn Kingsboro Psych according to NYS UDC Act 14(2) because the NYS ESD's Modified General Project Plan will be quitclaiming city owned real property (681 Clarkson Ave, Brooklyn) to NYS ESD.

Sincerely,



Shmuel Rosenstein
Acting Chairman
Crown Heights Jewish Community Council