



October 12, 2011

Honorable Christine C. Quinn
Speaker
New York City Council
250 Broadway, Suite 1856
New York, New York 10007

Dear Speaker Quinn:

We are writing this letter jointly to express our support for the “Fair Wages for New Yorkers” Act, a bill that would dramatically shape the way subsidized development works for the people of the City of New York.

Over the past decade, the Bronx has seen more than \$11 billion in new development within our borders. Despite this impressive investment, our borough continues to have the highest unemployment rate of any county in New York State. Additionally, the Bronx remains perhaps the poorest urban county in the United States.

It is clear that the jobs created in the Bronx, particularly those created through heavily subsidized development, are not working for the people who live here. The “Fair Wages for New Yorkers” Act is the first step towards reversing that trend. The bill, which is co-sponsored by City Council Members G. Oliver Koppell and Annabel Palma, and was introduced at the behest of Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., would require the developers of heavily subsidized projects to pay their employees a “living wage,” \$10 per hour with benefits, or \$11.50 per hour without.

Given the millions of dollars in profits developers take home to make these projects work, and the heavy subsidies that supplement that profit, we do not think it is too much to ask that the jobs created offer a “living wage.” In fact, it is the very least we can do, especially when these developments are taking so heavily from the taxpayers’ wallet.

As Borough President Diaz says, “if you want charity, you must be charitable.” With that in mind, we support the “Fair Wages for New Yorkers” Act, and urge the bill’s immediate passage.

Sincerely,

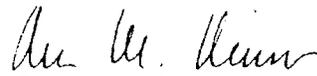

Adriano Espaillat
NYS Senator


Gustavo Rivera
NYS Senator


Rev. Ruben Diaz
NYS Senator

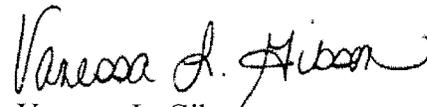

Ruth Hassell-Thompson
NYS Senate


Jose M. Serrano
NYS Senate


Peter M. Rivera
NYS Assembly

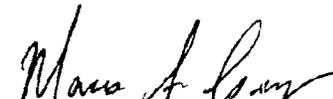

Nelson Castro
NYS Assembly


Jeffrey Dinowitz
NYS Assembly

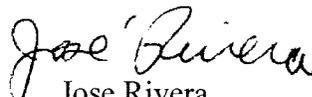

Vanessa L. Gibson
NYS Assembly

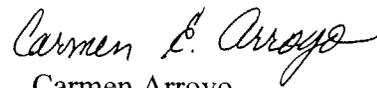

Carl E. Heastie
NYS Assembly


Michael Benedetto
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Jose Rivera
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