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**Labor, Community & Faith Organizations Demand Community Benefits for Kingsbridge Armory
Community Groups Demand a Community Benefits Agreement in Return for Taxpayer Investments**

New York, NY – The Industrial Development Authority will discuss an application today from the Related Companies for more than \$13 million in tax exemptions to redevelop the Kingsbridge Armory in the Bronx. Community organizations, faith leaders and labor unions are demanding that the Related Companies negotiate a Community Benefits Agreement in order to guarantee good, living wage jobs for local residents, vital community space and retail shopping opportunities that complement existing neighborhood retail and that don't threaten existing good jobs.

The Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance (KARA) is a coalition of community organizations, faith leaders and labor unions that have been actively involved in the Kingsbridge redevelopment process for years. KARA is committed to making the Kingsbridge Armory redevelopment a project that benefits the Bronx community.

“Our community will live with the results of this development for years to come,” says Desiree Pilgrim-Hunter, a resident of the Bronx and a member of the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC). “We believe that this development should enhance our community and accomplish more than simply generating a profit. This is not simply about redeveloping an old building, this is about developing desperately needed economic opportunities for our neighborhood.”

Community Benefits Agreements have been negotiated in cities around the country with developers receiving tax dollars and tax exemptions to help underwrite their projects. These agreements have helped developers build profitable projects while guaranteeing good jobs that pay living wages and provide health care, and create community spaces and affordable housing. Of particular concern to many residents are the types of jobs that will be created.

“We cannot simply let the Armory be development as usual,” said Stuart Appelbaum, president of the 100,000 member Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDAU). “We must seize this opportunity to negotiate a legally binding community benefits agreement and create good, living wage jobs for local residents in the Bronx.”

Yet other organizations are concerned about the Industrial Development Agency process itself and are concerned with the lack of return on investment using tax dollars.

“We’re outraged that Related Companies expects to receive public money without making any commitment to providing the good jobs and infrastructure that the Northwest Bronx community needs,” says Kristi Barnes with New York Jobs with Justice. “Unfortunately, it's not unusual for Industrial Development Agencies around the state to greenlight projects without regard for job standards or accountability measures. We need statewide IDA reform now more than ever in these tough economic times.”

Elected leaders are also raising concerns about granting tax exemptions for projects that have no job quality standards or other benefits for the communities that will live with the outcome of development projects for years to come.

“Related has benefited well from its relationship with the City,” says New York City Comptroller William C. Thompson, Jr. “It is time that it give back to the residents of the Bronx. A Community Benefits Agreement will ensure that the development of Kingsbridge Armory will be good for both the people and the economy of the Bronx.”

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About the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance (KARA)

The Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance is a nineteen member coalition of community groups, churches and unions that seek high-road, equitable development for the Kingsbridge Armory. The alliance wants the redevelopment plan to meet the community’s needs for living wage union jobs, community space, recreation facilities and schools. KARA has been endorsed by thirteen local, city, state and federal officials.