



January 17th, 2012

Dear Mr. Reed:

Greetings. We are writing to formally introduce ourselves, to congratulate you on your new post, and to kick-off what we hope will be a fruitful dialogue between FUREE and the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership under your leadership.

FUREE was founded just over 10 years ago by a pioneering group of low-income women of color. We have worked over the years to advance policies that we consider to be fair, inclusive and inspired by meaningful democratic participation. As a member-led organization made up of hundreds of families in and around Downtown Brooklyn, we work to empower those that are often left out of planning and development projects. We indeed support development, growth and investment, so long as it increases equity, opportunity and shared benefits. It is because our members live, work and shop in the area that we feel deeply invested in the future of the neighborhood that is now under your stewardship.

It is no secret that FUREE has not supported many of the development priorities previously promoted by the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership. We have enclosed an Op-Ed we recently had published that explains some of our concerns. We have also issued a number of well-researched reports detailing the negative impact these policies have had on our community. We look forward to sharing these reports with you, as they point toward workable development alternatives we hope to explore along with you.

It was truly unfortunate that your predecessor repeatedly refused to meet with us, despite FUREE being an important stakeholder in the area. We sincerely hope you will not continue this trend but will work instead to improve relations with our organization and the many constituents we represent, along with the local elected officials and others that share our commitment to fair development.

We respectfully request a meeting with you so that we can get things started off on the right foot. We would appreciate the courtesy of a reply by Friday, January 27th. Please feel free to contact us with meeting times that are convenient for you that fall within the next several weeks. Our board members and leaders in our Accountable Development Campaign are eager to discuss important planning issues in our neighborhood.

Once again, congratulations on the new job and we hope to work together in good faith for the betterment of the entire Downtown Brooklyn community.

Sincerely,

Maisha Morales
FUREE Board President

Alvin Bartolomey & Lorena Watler
FUREE Accountable Development Campaign

Families United for Racial & Economic Equality (FUREE) is a Brooklyn-based, multiracial organization led mostly by women of color. We mobilize low-income & working families to achieve justice for all.

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