



**Fort Independence Park Neighborhood Association**

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November 1, 2009

Honorable G. Oliver Koppell  
Council Member, 11<sup>th</sup> CD  
Waldo Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10463

Dear Council Member Koppell:

The members of FIPNA are extremely disappointed to learn that you do not consider a living wage (\$10/hr with benefits, \$11.50/hr without) an essential part of any Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) negotiated with a private company, the Related Companies, for the development of the Kingsbridge Armory, a formerly publicly owned facility.

We feel that this issue should be a paramount consideration of any CBA for this project. It is vital that this development, which has been given a substantial amount of public financing, not perpetuate poverty in the Bronx, which is the poorest urban area in the country.

It is an absolute myth that no business can be a success in this borough if it pays a living wage. Because of the transfer of this publicly owned facility to a private group, as well as the public financing to develop the structure, to protect this National Historic Place, and to clean up the brownfields, it is not unreasonable to request the developer require and/or subsidize a living wage for potential vendors at the site.

It is time for our elected officials to show their constituents that they have the backbone to stand up for them, and to make sure that they have opportunities to better themselves. Elected officials should be strong enough to represent the present, not their next or future terms!

Yes, we can!

Sincerely,

*Philip M. McDonnell, Karen Argenti and Lynn Schwarz*

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