Public Comment
Sharon Zea Rincon, Climate Justice Organizer
Special Subcommittee on Last Mile Trucking Facilities
Monday, October 25th, 2021

Good Evening Everyone, my name is Sharon Zea Rincon and I am the Climate Justice Organizer at UPROSE. I am here tonight with our partners at Earthjustice to share some of the impacts and many concerns of these giant last-mile trucking facilities, and how we can work together to start holding these private developers accountable. As we all know at this point, these private developments will have significant impacts on health, air pollution, traffic, transportation safety, public infrastructure, and the ability for the largest industrial waterfront in NYC to host well-paying career building green jobs that also address our climate change and community wellbeing needs.

We propose drafting a collective community letter that will include a list of demands and site & operation requirements for these last-mile facilities. The letter would be signed by community, Community Boards, Elected Officials to send to developers. This is an opportunity to show a united front to center community-based planning, leadership, and priorities.

List of Demands:

1. These developers are not subject to any public review process, so we need to demand transparency & accountability on their proposals. In the era of COVID & climate change, it is unacceptable to allow such large-scale and high-impact development lacking any community input and consent to take over NYC’s largest industrial waterfront.

2. We call all developers of last-mile trucking facilities to submit the following to the community:
   a. Timelines of their developments
   b. Copies of all site plans
   c. Operations plan & scopes, including all truck routes & delivery schedules
   d. Hiring plans

3. **Environmental Review**- Even though these last mile facilities are being treated by the Department of City Planning (DCP) as “Warehouses” and “as-of-right” development, we all know that they have distinctly different impacts than a “regular” warehouse in addition to the cumulative effect of significant adverse impacts resulting from the concentrated siting. Our communities are already overburdened with so many polluting facilities, and it is an environmental justice issue to allow these facilities to develop “as-of-right” without adequate environmental review & requirements.

Site Requirements:

Siempre en Lucha, y Siempre por Nuestra Gente.
462 36th Street Brooklyn, NY 11232 | t. 718 492 9307 | f. 718 492 9030
www.uprose.org
In addition, we are also calling for onsite & operational commitments from developers to ensure mitigation of impacts & community priorities.

1. Truck electrification
   a. Normally, warehouses, depots, and ports escape environmental regulation because most of their emissions are related to their operations versus onsite or "source" pollution
   b. But these facilities “attract” and cause a LOT of vehicle traffic that makes air quality worse
   c. Electrification – in conjunction with other strategies to slow down and manage the growth of these facilities – can eliminate tailpipe emissions and greenhouse gases and improve local air quality

2. Renewable energy generation
   a. Onsite renewable energy generation to ensure that these giant facilities are not overburdening the electrical grid and increasing any polluting peaker plants to run.
   b. Onsite battery storage to store renewable energy generation and manage peak energy demands.
   c. Commitment to utilize & procure all electric vehicle fleets.
   d. Onsite charging stations-require trucking and delivery vehicle contracts to use electric powered or human powered vehicles

3. Stormwater & Pollution Control
   a. Stormwater management (onsite & truck routes impacted by truck congestion and safety concerns)
   b. Onsite green infrastructure to manage polluted runoff, reduce heat, and mitigate stress on critical public infrastructure-sewer systems

NYC’s land use and zoning processes have failed to adequately protect communities from these giant last-mile trucking facilities, which makes it vital to create alignment on our community demands. Thank you for this time, and I will now pass it to our partners at Earthjustice to address the Indirect Source Rule.