

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT FROM CITY PLANNING COMMISSIONER AMANDA M. BURDEN ON CITY PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVAL OF 12 BLOCK REZONING OF ST. GEORGE, STATEN ISLAND

September 10, 2008 – "Working with a broad spectrum of community stakeholders, neighborhood residents and local elected officials, the proposal seeks to foster the growth of St. George for the future, by building on its existing strengths -- as a civic center, a neighborhood, and a transit hub, and provide rules that foster a thriving, pedestrian-friendly, business and residence district.

The proposal will ensure that St. George continues to grow as a vital, walkable and beautiful waterfront community, by establishing zoning regulations that facilitate continuous ground floor retail and the critical mass needed to attract a broader mix of uses and by requiring a tall, slender, building form. The proposal will capitalize on St. George's unique hillside topography and maintain waterfront vistas, and encourage the reuse of vacant office buildings by allowing them to easily convert to residential uses, populating empty spaces in the heart of the neighborhood.

Many thanks to Council Member McMahon and to Borough President Molinaro for their leadership on this critical rezoning, I am pleased to vote yes."

Department of City Planning

The Department of City Planning is responsible for the City's physical and socioeconomic planning, including land use and environmental review; preparation of plans and policies; and provision of technical assistance and planning information to government agencies, public officials, and community boards.