

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Michael Sherman/Janel Patterson -- (212) 312-3523 -- www.newyorkbiz.com
Public Affairs Officer: (212) 720-3471 -- www.nyc.gov/planning

NYC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ISSUES RFP FOR DOWNTOWN FLUSHING PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS

*To Assist in Development of Plans for Future Growth,
Public Improvements and Waterfront Access*

Monday, October 7, 2002, New York City - New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC), in cooperation with New York City Department of City Planning (DCP) and the Downtown Flushing Working Group, today issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for professional planning and development feasibility services to promote continued economic growth in portions of Downtown Flushing, Queens, and surrounding areas. The Working Group is composed of representatives of a number of City agencies, local elected officials, Community Board 7, and other local community stakeholders.

"This is another positive step toward achieving the Bloomberg Administration's goal of strengthening and expanding our central business districts Citywide," said EDC President Andrew M. Alper. "Downtown Flushing is already one of the most vibrant and diverse neighborhoods in the City. This new commitment of resources will provide an excellent opportunity to create a more attractive community that responds to what the local businesses and residents need and deserve."

The City is seeking a consultant team to provide professional planning services to assist in the development of an integrated framework for continued development of the central business district and mixed-use community in Downtown Flushing, the nearby Flushing River waterfront and Willets Point peninsula. The goal is to develop a comprehensive, area-wide plan in concert with the local community to create a more predictable process for the development of existing sites and promote sound future growth. The framework will also make recommendations regarding infrastructure improvements required to support that growth.

To accomplish this, the consultant will work closely with EDC, DCP and the Working Group to articulate a common vision for the future of the area incorporating the community's short and long-term goals. Based on that vision, the consultant will work with the others involved to craft a framework for new retail, office and residential development of targeted sites, supporting transportation, open space and community facilities.

Amanda M. Burden, Director of the Department of City Planning said, "Hiring a consultant team will generate new ideas for promoting Flushing and further its evolution by identifying important urban design objectives. This is an excellent opportunity to consolidate and build upon the Administration's ongoing efforts to upgrade the vital pedestrian corridors in Downtown Flushing. We are excited to work with everyone in the community on this important project. "

The framework will also identify compatible improvements that can be implemented immediately. In addition, it will identify opportunities to better connect regional destinations, such as nearby Shea Stadium and Flushing Meadows Park, to the Downtown Flushing area and its waterfront.

After the consultant team is selected later this year, a series of public meetings will be scheduled in the community. Proposals are due by 4 p.m. on October 28, 2002. For more information or a copy of the RFP, please call 212/312-3969 or e-mail info@newyorkbiz.com and enter 1002Flushing in the subject line.

EDC is the City's primary vehicle for economic development services. Using its real estate and financial resources, EDC helps develop businesses and create jobs in all five boroughs.