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August 24, 2022

**New York Building Congress Testimony in support of the Innovation Urban Village Project**

Good afternoon. My name is Kate Cunningham, I am the Director of Government and External Relations at the New York Building Congress, and I will be testifying on behalf of our President & CEO, Carlo A. Scissura. On behalf of more than 550 constituent organizations and 250,000 skilled tradespeople and professionals architects, engineers, contractors and labor we testify today in support of the Innovative Urban Village project as we firmly believe the plan will be extremely beneficial for East New York and its residents.

New York City is currently facing the dire realities of a housing crisis. More housing development is needed now more than ever, and the Christian Cultural Center is a perfect candidate to lead the charge. The Christian Cultural Center, under the dedicated and magnificent leadership of the Reverend Bernard, with whom Carlo had the pleasure of working closely with in the past, is a reputable, long-standing community member that has the best interest of the community at heart. Throughout their partnership with Gotham Organization and Monadnock Development, and over the course of their engagement with the community, the Center has incorporated community feedback, including reducing the heights of some buildings and eliminating higher income tiers above 80 percent AMI.

The Innovative Urban Village's plan will create housing opportunities for families of various sizes and incomes, including plans for over 1,850 units of income-restricted rental housing, of which 200 will be set aside for seniors. The plan also includes 100 affordable homeownership units, which will allow residents to gain financial security and build equity for the next generation. The project will also include many benefits that will be available to the public, such as a Performing Arts Center, a school, a public playground, 24/7 childcare, green space, retail, parking, and shuttle service to nearby train stations. The integration of affordable rental housing, homeownership, community facility services, and retail is a win for the direct community and New York City as a whole.

Additionally, the residents of the Linden, Boulevard, Pink, and Wortman houses, all within the vicinity of the project, will benefit from the GED programs, childcare services, career counseling, and vocational training services that are included in the plan.

This project has the potential to create real economic opportunities for members of our community by creating new locations for local businesses, community amenities, and will bring both local retail and jobs to East New York. The New York Building Congress is proud to support the Innovative Urban Village project.

