



Testimony to the New York City Council Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises
Zoning, Bruckner Sites, Bronx C220007 ZMX; N220008 ZRX
September 7, 2022

Introduction and Thanks:

My name is Patrick Boyle and I am the Assistant Vice President for Public Policy for Volunteers of America-Greater New York (VOA-GNY). We are the local affiliate of the national organization, Volunteers of America, Inc. (VOA). I would like to thank Chair Salamanca, as well as the other members of this Committee, for the opportunity to submit the following testimony.

About Us:

VOA-GNY is an anti-poverty organization that aims to end homelessness in the New York area by 2050 through housing, health and wealth building services. We are one of the region's largest human service providers, impacting more than 11,000 adults and children annually through 65 programs in New York City, Northern New Jersey, and Westchester. We are also an active nonprofit developer of supportive and affordable housing, with a robust portfolio of permanent supportive housing, affordable and senior housing properties—with more in the pipeline.

Bruckner Rezoning Proposals:

Volunteers of America operates 65 programs in the Greater New York area, most of which are residences—both transitional and permanent housing, often serving a specific population, such as seniors, veterans, domestic violence survivors, those living with HIV/AIDS and others with some level of social service needs.

Managing these programs is within the mission of our organization, which is to end homelessness in the region, in partnership with the other organizations that do this work, with our government partners and with the communities where our sites are located. We have seen our residences become good partners with the local community, establish ties with local businesses and houses of worship, and overall be woven into the fabric of the existing neighborhood.

In that spirit, we encourage all communities to open their arms to welcome new growth, particularly new residential properties that include affordable units which are so critically important. New York City is in the midst of a serious housing shortage, and that shortage is far more acute for the affordable units that our clients depend on. We simply will not be successful in reducing homelessness in the City if entire Council districts are able to say no to residential growth. Communities will always have their concerns; local leaders must help to broker solutions that help us to become a City of Yes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by:

Volunteers of America - Greater New York

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