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HIP-HOP SUMMIT YOUTH COUNCIL OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES THEIR “NETS 2 BROOKLYN” CAMPAIGN WITH THE FORMATION OF THE “STARS 4 THE YARDS” COMMITTEE.

MANY STARS SHOW UP TO SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN INCLUDING JASON KIDD, VINCE CARTER, DARRYL DAWKINS, ALBERT KING, ROBERTA FLACK, AND MEMBERS OF THE PERSUADERS & BLUE MAGIC.

August 24, 2006---Supporters of the Atlantic Yards initiative held a press conference yesterday to discuss the benefits of the project, including the New Jersey Nets move to Brooklyn. A host of celebrities came out to support the cause including NJ Nets stars Jason Kidd & Vince Carter, former NBA players Darryl Dawkins & Albert King, legendary singer Roberta Flack, members of the groups Blue Magic & the Persuaders, community leaders Bertha Lewis of ACORN, Randi Weingarten, head of the United Federation of Teachers, Rev. Herbert Daughtry and a host of elected officials including Brooklyn Boro President Marty Markowitz. Hundreds of spectators stood outside of MetroTech Plaza while supporters talked about the benefits of the Nets coming to Brooklyn including: **affordable and middle-income housing**, including units for seniors; **jobs and training** for minorities and women, including public housing residents; **business opportunities** for minority/women-owned business enterprises and local retailers; **environmental assurances**; **educational initiatives**, including tutoring/mentoring programs and four charter schools; the creation of a **Children’s Zone** to focus resources on issues of concern to Brooklyn’s youth; **community amenities**, such as seven acres of open space, healthcare, childcare, youth and senior citizen centers, with use of the arena for community events; profit sharing and fundraising opportunities; creation of programs to help ex-offenders, drop-outs, substance abusers and individuals who are in need of social services and community support.

The Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council launched their “Nets 2 Brooklyn” campaign to show their support for the project and Hip-Hop Star Shawn (Jay-Z) Carter, who is a part owner of the Nets. Their “Stars 4 the Yards” Committee petition was signed by Kidd, Carter, Dawkins, King and members of the Persuaders and Blue Magic. Later that day Ron Artest, who is about to drop his hot debut CD entitled “My World,” also signed on to the committee. The “Stars 4 the Yards” Committee was created to not only garner support from the Celebrity Community for this project, but to also help rebuild poor and disadvantaged neighborhoods in New York.

“There is a housing crisis in Brooklyn and it needs to be addressed. I understand that there are still people out there that don’t want the Nets to move to Brooklyn because they’ll be forced to move. I’m quite sure they will all be fairly compensated and relocated so that the greater needs of the community can be addressed. Part of the incentives of the historic Community Benefits Agreement is that employment and housing will be available for low, middle and upper middle income families” stated Randy Fisher, executive director of the National Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council.

“Launching the “Stars 4 the Yards” Committee is an important aspect of this project. First of all we need Celebrities and the Hip-Hop Community to get behind Jay-Z and this historic Community Benefits Agreement so that Hip-Hop can continue to move in a new positive direction. Today, it is not just about music, fame and fortune, but also what you can contribute to help rebuild communities here at home and abroad. I commend Jay-Z and the stars that have signed on to support this project. They will all be working with the Youth Council in Brooklyn and neighborhoods throughout the country to help young people become more productive citizens. Using the power and influence of the Hip-Hop Culture to improve communities here at home and throughout the world is the new direction of the Hip-Hop Community. This agreement is a model to follow and can be used to improve the quality of life in poor communities and developing nations. Through this agreement the Hip-Hop Community will have a blueprint to support their efforts to address unemployment, housing, poverty, economic development, education and a host of other issues that are destroying the lives of our youth and young adults” ended Charles Fisher, Founder and Chairman of the Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council.

“It’s a pleasure and honor to be here to add my face [to support of this project]. The goal is all about bettering ourselves and bettering our community” stated Vince Carter.

“I’m not here today just because Bruce is my boss; I’m here because I believe in what he’s doing. I know Brooklyn—I’ve gone to school here, I’ve gone to church here, that’s why I believe in Bruce and I believe in what he’s doing to better this community” said Jason Kidd.

“After 48 years of serving and preaching in Brooklyn the Lord has spoken to me and said that the only thing I need to do is step out and go down a few blocks and my dream of building Brooklyn is realized” stated Rev. Herbert Daughtry.

“I’ve said this from the very beginning and I’ll say it again—this is about affordable housing, better jobs and bringing sports back to Brooklyn” said Bruce Ratner, CEO of Forest City Ratner Companies.

“Today we’re here with a host of celebrities to support this project including Jason Kidd, Vince Carter, Darryl Dawkins, Albert King, the Persuaders, Blue Magic, Roberta Flack, and others. They support the Nets to Brooklyn Campaign and the Stars 4 the Yards Committee” ended Bertha Lewis, executive director of NY ACORN.



Jason Kidd, Darryl Dawkins, Randy Fisher, Vince Carter, Charles Fisher



Rev. Herbert Daughtry, Charles Fisher, Bruce Ratner, Randall Toure (Forest City Ratner Companies), Randy Fisher

PHOTOS BY LARRY MOORE

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