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New York City Department of City Planning Public Scoping Meeting on River North

November 19, 2020

Good Afternoon,

My name is Maria Free, and I am the Urban Planning and Policy Analyst for the New York Building Congress. We are proud to support Madison Realty's proposal for River North and are excited to see the project move through environmental review.

The New York Building Congress has, for almost 100 years, advocated for investment in infrastructure, pursued job creation and promoted preservation and growth in the New York City area. Our association is made up of over 550 organizations comprised of more than 250,000 professionals. Through our members, events and various committees, we seek to address the critical issues of the building industry and promote the economic and social advancement of our city and its constituents.

In alignment with that mission, the Building Congress believes River North will support the economic renaissance that has been taking place in St. George. The site with the proposed zoning amendments will become a northern anchor for the commercial corridor of Stuyvesant Place, which includes the Staten Island Yankees Stadium, Empire Outlets and Lighthouse Point.

By adding affordable housing, retail and public open spaces near the St. George transit hub, River North advances the City's goals set forth in OneNYC, Housing New York and North Shore 2030. The project will have 225 affordable housing units, making it one of the borough's largest sources of affordable housing, as well as 50,000 square feet of landscaped and natural open space. The proposed site plan also retains views from upland areas and enhances access to the waterfront for both residents and visitors.

River North would transform an underused site into an important piece of St. George's vibrant urban fabric, and the Building Congress looks forward to the proposal becoming a reality.