



**New York City Council
Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises**

Public Hearing on Industry City

**September 15, 2020
10:00 am**

**Testimony provided by
State Senator Velmanette Montgomery
25th Senate District**



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INDUSTRY CITY REZONING

Good afternoon and thank you Chair Moya and members of the Subcommittee,

I am New York State Senator Velmanette Montgomery and I represent Senate District 25 where Sunset Park and the Industry City site is located. Today I make myself present as a full supporter of Industry City's rezoning proposal.

For more than 50 years, Industry City has remained a heavy manufacturing zoning site, which has limited the extent to which it serves the community and utilizes its vital waterfront. Industry City's rezoning proposal is not a choice between a rezoning and nothing. It is a choice between a rezoning with sizeable locked-in benefits (protected manufacturing, reduced retail, and job training and placement) vs an as-of-right alternative with unlimited office and millions of square feet of last-mile delivery warehouses. As many of you may know, I have been a strong advocate for the thoughtful and responsible preservation of Brooklyn's working waterfront. Industry City's rezoning proposal is the right project to elevate both the waterfront and our community.

Industry City's commitment to the community is unquestionable. They took part in more community engagement than any other developer I have ever met and they crafted their proposal to directly reflect Community Board 7's 197A Waterfront Plan.

As of today, Industry City:

- Serves hundreds of local job seekers through their Innovation Lab. The Lab is an integrated employment and business development center, which provides local job seekers access to career training and job placement.
- Provides space that has allowed new and small businesses to grow and serve the community.
- Removed hotels and reduced the amount of retail space from their original rezoning plan, as requested by the community.
- Supports green jobs and sustainable development on the waterfront. They have partnered with the Red Hook Container Terminal, New York State Energy Research & Development Agency and New York City Economic Development Corporation to redevelop the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal in order to serve as a port that will service the offshore wind industry, which NYSERDA will be creating. NYSERDA is an authority committed to bringing offshore clean, green and renewable energy to the State of New York. Thanks to Industry City's role in the adjacent South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, hundreds of high-quality green jobs in the offshore wind and maritime industry are coming to our community.



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- Is committed to creating educational and professional pathways to maritime and STEAM careers for young people. Before joining Industry City, Andrew Kimball was President and CEO of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation, where he led the revitalization of the industrial and manufacturing complex and was directly involved in laying the groundwork for the Brooklyn STEAM Center Navy Yard. During the revitalization of the Navy Yard, space that met the required zoning variance was created in order to allow for educational and vocational purposes. Today the Brooklyn STEAM Center is the only program of its kind that is embedded inside a manufacturing hub and grants its young attendees access to over 400 businesses and a 300-acre industrial park as an additional feature of their learning environment. This zoning proposal would ensure that similar programs can be replicated at Industry City.
- They have forged partnerships with academic institutions; including the New York City College of Technology and potentially Kingsborough Community College, in their commitment to establish a public technical school and an adult education center once the rezoning takes place.

Several years ago, I initiated a number of important community conversations around the future of the working waterfront. I hosted a series of extremely productive workshops and working group meetings to discuss our goals and interests for redeveloping the waterfront. What we heard over and over was that we needed waterfront development that was reflective of the community's interests, that was inclusive, that was sustainable and could support the growth of green jobs, that protected permanent job-creating spaces from becoming luxury housing and condos and that whatever was built had mechanisms for ensuring local residents could benefit from any new jobs created. I believe this rezoning plan meets these requests.

It is important to mention that not only does the plan restore job creation to the Sunset Park waterfront but it does so with hundreds of millions in private investment and no public subsidies. Today, if you've listened carefully to Mr. Kimball – who, by the way, I worked with closely during his tenure at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and who fulfilled every commitment he ever made in revitalizing that waterfront site – you can see exactly why I have chosen to offer my full support.

After a career spent fighting to preserve our working waterfront and creating new employment pathways, I do believe in my heart that this is what is best for Sunset Park, for Brooklyn and for New York City. I urge you to join me in support of this proposal. Thank you.