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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEES ON TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND HIGHER EDUCATION PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING
“OVERSIGHT - THE APPLIED SCIENCE NYC INITIATIVE -- PLANS FOR A
DRAMATIC TRANSFORMATION OF THE CITY’S ECONOMY”**

September 28, 2012

My name is Daniel Squadron and I represent the 25th District in the New York State Senate. My district includes the Manhattan neighborhoods of Chinatown, the Lower East Side, Tribeca, Battery Park City, the Financial District, Little Italy, SoHo and the East Village, and the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Greenpoint, Williamsburg, Vinegar Hill, DUMBO, Fulton Ferry, Brooklyn Heights, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens and Gowanus.

I would like to first thank Chairs Cabrera, Koslowitz and Rodriguez for holding this important hearing and for the opportunity to testify today.

When the Applied Sciences NYC initiative began in December 2010, top educational institutions from around the world were challenged to propose new or expanded applied sciences and engineering campuses in New York City. Applied Sciences NYC encapsulates a long-term vision for the future of the City. It is one I share: to ensure the future of the City by investing in emerging industries, incubating start-ups, and attracting the best and the brightest from around the world.

Since the fall of last year I had been urging the City to choose NYU-Poly's proposal for an Applied Sciences Center at 370 Jay Street in Downtown Brooklyn. In November I urged the City to award NYU-Poly's proposal as a second selection in the Applied Sciences NYC process, effectively allowing the initiative to provide a two-for-one: the first with Cornell NYC Tech on Roosevelt Island and the second in Downtown Brooklyn. I argued that if NYU-Poly's application were successful, 370 Jay Street would likely require minimal capital investment from the City, would further expand applied sciences programs in NYC and would put to use the nearly-abandoned former MTA headquarters at 370 Jay Street.

We built a strong coalition of elected and community officials and business and technology leaders who agreed that NYU-Poly's proposal was the right move for the local Downtown Brooklyn community, for Brooklyn's growing tech scene, and for the city.

In April we were thrilled to celebrate the selection of NYU-Poly's proposal for the Center for Urban Science and Progress (CUSP) at 370 Jay Street as a second Applied Sciences NYC winner.

By pursuing NYU-Poly's proposal, the City is bringing a world-class applied sciences institute to Brooklyn and Brooklyn's incredible talent and vibrant tech scene to the world.

The location proposed by NYU-Poly, 370 Jay Street in Downtown Brooklyn, is an appropriate property for an applied sciences center: it is a 459,000 square foot keystone property in the heart of Brooklyn. CUSP will create a hub for science and technology that connects the budding tech community in DUMBO and the surrounding neighborhoods along with City Tech and Poly's existing campuses. In fact, I'm working with the MTA, Borough President Markowitz, and community stakeholders to design a brand new Tech Triangle bus route that will launch next year and directly connect Downtown Brooklyn and CUSP with the other growing technology hubs of DUMBO and the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Also important, CUSP's location at 370 Jay Street will be a major step forward in the resurgence of Downtown Brooklyn, an area that has garnered hundreds of millions in capital, but in which a full renaissance has been stymied by 370 Jay's current near-abandonment and disrepair. For years, I, along with my colleagues, the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, and others have called for 370 Jay Street to be put to productive use. The building simply doesn't reflect Downtown Brooklyn's growth as a neighborhood and potential as an economic engine for the city in its current state. By bringing 370 Jay Street out of mothballs, we will bolster economic development and help create dramatic progress for the area, allowing Downtown Brooklyn to continue to grow and thrive and moving New York forward on its path of innovation and prosperity.

Thank you for holding this important hearing, and to the MTA, the City, and NYU for reaching an agreement that has answered the community's calls and will allow New York to continue attracting the top talent that has made us a center of innovation.

