

PRESS RELEASE

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Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority Amends Redevelopment Plan to Allow for Broadcast Tower

Proposed Tower would generate more than \$4 million in revenue and create many new jobs.

Bayonne, December 20, 2002 - The Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority (BLRA) has authorized an amendment to the redevelopment plan for The Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor (the former Military Ocean Terminal) that would permit the location of a Broadcast Tower being proposed by the Metropolitan Television Alliance.

The City of Bayonne is under serious consideration as a possible site for the world's tallest free-standing structure – a communications tower designed to replace the antenna that was lost when the World Trade Center was destroyed.

“We are serious in our desire to bring this tower to The Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor,” said Howard Fitch, Chairman, Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority. “It would be a wonderful way to jumpstart the redevelopment of the former Military Ocean Terminal.”

City Council member and BLRA Commissioner Maria Karczewski said she “enthusiastically voted in favor of this resolution” because of the economic benefits associated with siting this tower in the State of New Jersey and especially in the City of Bayonne.

According to Mayor Joseph V. Doria, Jr., the construction costs associated with building the tower are estimated at approximately \$200 million dollars.

“This will help our labor force by providing good union jobs in a down economy. This multimillion-dollar facility will translate into approximately \$4 million dollars in tax revenues to the City of Bayonne after it is constructed,” Doria said.

“The New York-New Jersey TV broadcasters commends Mayor Doria and the BLRA for their vision and decisive action in helping to move this worthwhile project forward. With millions of Metropolitan Area viewers denied quality TV reception, it is

important to proceed as quickly as reasonably possible to build a new broadcast tower," said Metropolitan Television Alliance President Edward Grebow.

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Council President and BLRA Commissioner Vincent Lo Re Jr. said Bayonne is a particularly attractive location for such a large-scale construction project.

"The Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor is located in an Urban Enterprise Zone (UEZ) which means that construction materials can be purchased at 0% sales tax, making construction costs extremely attractive to developers," Lo Re said.

Nancy A. Kist, Executive Director of the BLRA, requested that the Commissioners take this action now because DEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell has requested public comment on why the State would benefit from siting the tower in New Jersey.

"We want to go on record, formally, that we believe that the tower would benefit Bayonne by jumpstarting the redevelopment of the former Military Ocean Terminal," Kist said.

Kist added that "Bayonne suffered the loss of thousands of jobs with the closing of the Military Ocean Terminal and this is a way to bring those jobs back to Bayonne."

The proposed tower would be built on six acres at the eastern tip of The Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor. Topping out at over 2,000 feet, the communications tower would surpass the CN Tower in Toronto, Canada by almost 200 feet. The structure would be about twice as tall as the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France.

The World Trade Center had been host to the broadcast antennas of the many radio and television stations that serve the New York metropolitan area. But following the events of Sept. 11, 2001 many stations were forced to shift their broadcast signals to secondary antennas located at the Empire State Building, disrupting reception for people -- mostly poor and elderly -- who rely on broadcast signals for their TV reception.

The State of New Jersey granted UEZ status to Bayonne earlier this year in recognition of the economic losses to the City with the closure of MOTBY.

Now that the BLRA has acted to amend its redevelopment plan, several public hearings will occur in Bayonne. Once the amendment is prepared by the BLRA, it will

be forwarded to the City Council, who must, by law, refer it to the City's Planning Board for its recommendations. Once the Planning Board makes its recommendations to the Council, the Council will weigh in and vote on whether or not to allow the redevelopment plan to be amended.

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