

## Workshop 6: Draft Strategies Key Takeaways

### Overview

Over 50 members of the public attended Workshop 6: Draft Strategies on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at CAMBA Pink Houses Community Center. The City shared progress to-date in addressing quality of life issues, such as illegal industrial uses, dumping, and squatting as well as a set of draft strategies for the future of the neighborhood. We heard from community members about which strategies they found most important and how the strategies could improve. The East New York Community Land Trust, Councilmembers Ariola and Banks, and State Senator Roxanne Persaud’s office gave opening remarks emphasizing the importance of the neighborhood planning process to delivering lasting change in the Jewel Streets. We also received exciting updates from agencies:

- DEP will build storm sewers on Blake Avenue before the end of 2024 and shared more about their innovative long-term drainage plan for the area. They also provided flood preparedness kits to local residents.
- HPD provided an updated vision, or planning framework, for the future of Linden Blvd, the Jewel Streets, and the 17-acre City-owned site
- The Department of Transportation announced a plan to improve safety and speed up bus service on Linden Blvd
- The Departments of Sanitation, Buildings, and the NYPD will be ramping up enforcement to jointly tackle ongoing quality of life issues in the Jewel Streets

The public provided feedback on the neighborhood plan’s draft strategies, which were developed based on feedback at the five prior workshops:

### Feedback Summary

	Comments
<p><b>Goal 1: Reduce flooding now and in the future</b></p> <p>Strategy 1: While designing long term solutions in the Jewel Streets, improve drainage at key locations with catch basins</p> <p>Strategy 2: Build new stormwater drainage system north of Linden Boulevard</p> <p>Strategy 3: Develop a new stormwater drainage system south of Linden Boulevard</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure improvements are needed, including an additional catch basin at the intersection of Ruby St and Blake Ave</li> <li>• Ensure that the proposed drainage pond (ie bluebelt) is beautiful and useable as a park</li> <li>• Explore precedents for flood resilience like Battery Park City</li> <li>• Focus on sustainability and reducing greenhouse gas emissions while planning for the future of the neighborhood</li> <li>• Continually address illegal businesses, dumping, and squatting in the Jewel Streets</li> </ul>

<p><b>Goal 2: Make homes safer and more affordable for current residents</b></p> <p>Strategy 1: Install sanitary sewers where residents current rely on septic systems</p> <p>Strategy 2: Connect residents to government programs that make homes safe from flooding</p> <p>Strategy 3: Invest in the preservation of existing affordable homes</p> <p>Strategy 4: Improve access to down payment assistance for first time homebuyers</p> <p>Strategy 5: Inform residents about City resources that protect renters and support homeowners</p> <p>Strategy 6: Develop NYC’s voluntary housing mobility program (“buyout”)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New housing in the neighborhood should be energy efficient and affordable to current residents</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 3: Make streets safer and better connected</b></p> <p>Strategy 1: Explore ways to make it safer and easier for pedestrians, cyclists and cars to get around on major corridors</p> <p>Strategy 2: Build missing sidewalks and streets in the Jewel Streets to improve safety and connectivity in the neighborhood</p> <p>Strategy 3: Improve transit access to important places in the borough and the city</p>	<p>Street Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make stoplights/crosswalk countdowns longer on Linden Blvd</li> <li>• Consider traffic calming on Linden through reducing the number of traffic lanes (e.g., planted medians, busways, bike lanes) and improving intersection safety</li> <li>• Request for sidewalk on Blake Ave and Ruby Street to increase pedestrian visibility because vehicles are often illegally parked at the intersection</li> <li>• Request for stoplight at Emerald and Loring Ave</li> </ul> <p>Connected Streets and Transit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider transit connectivity from North Jewels area to mass transit, especially across Conduit Avenue</li> <li>• Connect dead end streets to Conduit through new staircases</li> <li>• Make B15, B60, Q8, B13, B84, B12 service faster and more reliable, especially for destinations like</li> </ul>

	<p>Gateway Mall, Liberty Ave, and surrounding neighborhoods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve street connections between Queens and Brooklyn (e.g., Flatlands Ave, 156th Ave, Stanley Ave)</li> <li>• Consider light rail along Linden Blvd</li> </ul> <p>Public Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve Linden and the Jewel Streets with new sidewalks, garbage cans, street trees, and bus shelters</li> <li>• Transition Conduit median into useable public space</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 4: Encourage redevelopment of vacant land with new affordable housing, stores, and open space</b></p> <p>(Draft strategies embedded in the Planning Framework map. Workshop boards for details.)</p>	<p>New Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serving the existing community should be the focus of any new development</li> <li>• Though taller buildings aren't a problem, new development on Linden Blvd should happen after addressing infrastructure issues on Jewel Streets</li> <li>• Shrink the DSNY footprint adjacent to the City-owned site to allow for more development or open space</li> </ul> <p>Community Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a community youth center and spaces to display local art in new developments</li> <li>• Focus on health, longevity, and trauma-informed care in the design of the City-owned site</li> <li>• Incorporate an amphitheater or entertainment center to support arts programming on the City-owned site</li> </ul> <p>Open Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve connections between new open space and Spring Creek Park</li> <li>• Consider adding a boardwalk starting at Fountain Ave, extending through the park to</li> </ul>

	<p>Jamaica Bay, potentially with a walking trail</p>
<p><b>Goal 5: Stimulate the creation of good jobs, businesses, and community resources</b></p> <p>Strategy 1: Support existing small businesses and encourage local business ownership and growth</p> <p>Strategy 2: Make it easier for residents to get jobs in the neighborhood and nearby by improving access to social services and workforce development training programs</p> <p>Strategy 3: Increase the amount of fresh, affordable food in the neighborhood</p>	<p>Education and Jobs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Propose a community college or educational campus on the City-owned site</li> <li>• Provide dedicated business support services</li> <li>• Create affordable space in new development for local businesses, especially for women- and minority-owned businesses</li> <li>• Bring the NYC Climate Museum, which is looking for a new location, to the neighborhood</li> <li>• Provide life sciences training in the neighborhood</li> <li>• Help veterans access Veterans Affairs business loans</li> </ul> <p>Family and Youth Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand after-school and youth programs</li> <li>• Provide support and parenting training for young parents</li> </ul> <p>Health Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New development should consider and address trauma and ensure that physical and mental well-being focused on longevity is factored into developments</li> <li>• Establish a community clinic or hospital satellite to handle emergencies for the local population</li> <li>• Bring more fitness options to the area, including rowing</li> </ul> <p>Food Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a community garden to promote healthy food and empower students to grow their own food</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Address the issue of the neighborhood being a "food desert" and work to make healthy food more accessible</li></ul>
--	---