

EL BARRIO UNITE

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January 9, 2017

Gus Rosado
El Barrio's Operation Fight Back
413 E 120th Street, #403
New York, NY 10035

Dear Gus Rosado and Operation Fightback,

NERVE, Inc. has applauded your housing program progress over the past 30 years in El Barrio. You have created a very large organizational presence serving our community and our people. That deserves acknowledgement. Think of all the people that have made that all possible for you and your staff, and your Board membership.

However, what I heard from your December 16th public hearing support for the DCP Rezoning Proposal to gentrify and displace our poorest families is now something that we must discuss to clarify your position with our East Harlem Housing Preservation interests.

Why do you support this plan to rezone El Barrio? You do realize that very few units of this Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Rezoning Program will be allocated for families making less than \$ 32,000. You do realize that community nonprofit organizations are being iced out of the action by the big private developers who will be taking advantage of these \$ 48 Billion public monies directed at households making greater than \$ 45,000. You do realize how this will entirely change the make-up of El Barrio- our people, our clubs, our neighborhood. What is it about this rezoning plan that appeals to El Barrio's Operation Fight Back and why?

You do realize that NERVE has voiced community wide opposition to this anti-poor proposal through our resident volunteer organization- El Barrio Unite. You do realize the changes since the last 2003 rezoning- the vast numbers of Black and Hispanic families that have been displaced since 2003. The same poor people that you say "have it made here in East Harlem." The same people that have helped you and your family directly to enjoy a wealthy lifestyle that they can't even imagine for themselves. Where do you suppose our people will end up while these 35 story buildings start looming over the avenues of our neighborhood for people that we don't even know. Aren't you afraid for our people, our places, our institutions, our common collective memories? All that will be lost if we allow ourselves to be co-opted into a high rent development plan that offers nothing to our lowest income families and our continued existence in our own neighborhood. Enclosed is our power presentation on this important issue that we hope you will reconsider changing your view point support with something more demanding for the poor people you represent and charge rent. These low-income community residents deserve

more than just a "neighborhood preservation rent office" willing to sell them out with an endorsement for a plan that discounts their participation in their own future plans for safe affordable housing.

Our neighborhood preservation efforts have been instituted since before the administration of the Statewide and Citywide funding vehicles that we helped to create. We are proud of our low rent, operation and maintenance program for El Barrio. We are also content in servicing some of your tenant referrals. We are proud of our poor income tenants, their neighbors, their friends, people, our institutions, our Black, Hispanic and White people. That is our legacy.

What is yours?

On behalf of El Barrio Unite,

Roger Hernandez & Roberto Anazagasti