
November 11, 2002

The Hoboken Reporter
1400 Washington Street
Hoboken, New Jersey 07030

Letter to the Editor:

On November 6, 2002 at the council meeting amendment's to the original Redevelopment Plan (adopted 1989) for the Southern Waterfront were introduced. The council was given a quick briefing, shown preliminary renditions, the vote was taken, it passed, and I abstained.

I totally agree with re-configuring the footprint to reduce density, bulk add view corridors, set backs if it ended there, but unfortunately it doesn't.

There are a total of 6 amendments. Item #6 has component A-B-C-D and all are available at the City Clerks Office. Item # 6 component A says it all " providing bonus height provisions to accommodate a narrow building envelope open space "at grade". I asked how many stories are you adding, the answer was 16 or 17.

Item #2 providing for more glass to be incorporated in the façade. I saw the preliminary rendition and it is a large glass structure mirroring what is being built along Jersey City waterfront.

When the original Redevelopment Plan for the South Waterfront was adopted in 1989. The Mayor Russo was elected in 1993 he appointed a panel of 18 residents, including then councilmen Dave Roberts to serve on the Hoboken Waterfront Corporation membership. He created this panel to oversee the details of the development.

I have requested a similar panel be appointed with the same mandate to move the last piece of the plan forward. I find it totally unacceptable to take a step further without public input, consensus or public concerns and comments from the various interested groups.

I find it totally unacceptable to even entertain a sixteen or seventeen story glass building (ala Newport) set in the middle of the existing bricks and masonry structure.

In closing, to date my request has been denied. The amendments will be on the November 20, 2002 agenda for the second and final vote. Please make your feeling known to the Mayor and your councilperson. Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

Theresa Castellano
1st Ward Councilwoman