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ESSEX CROSSING PARK DEDICATED TO LOWER EAST SIDE FAMILIES DISPLACED FROM NEIGHBORHOOD 50 YEARS AGO

New park plaque honors the 2,000 families displaced between 1967 – 1973 and the continued efforts to help them return home

NEW YORK (October 2, 2019)—Together, New York City Council Member Margaret Chin, representatives from Delancey Street Associates, the Essex Crossing developer, and former site tenants unveiled a new plaque dedicating Essex Crossing Park to the Lower East Side families who were displaced from the Seward Park Urban Renewal Area between 1965-1973. The dedication also honored the local community’s commitment to helping these families return home after 50 years.

Approximately 2,000 families were evicted from tenement housing in the Seward Park Urban Renewal Area between 1965-1973. Essex Crossing’s nine sites on six acres had sat mostly vacant since 1967 and represent one of the most significant urban renewal developments in the history of New York City. The overall project, which will be more than 90 percent open by 2021, will include 1,079 units of housing (more than half affordable). The entire project is expected to be finished by 2024.

The park dedication also recognized the work by community groups to identify displaced residents and offer them the chance to move back home. Former site tenants receive priority on roughly a quarter of the project's affordable units.

The 15,000-square-foot park, located on Broome Street between Clinton and Suffolk streets, opened to the public on June 12, 2019. The park features a children’s play area, ample planter-seating and a community table area along Broome Street, with more than 35 percent of the area reserved for trees, flowers and other plantings.

Together, Council Member Chin, representatives from Delancey Street Associates, and former site tenants unveiled a new plaque honoring the displaced residents. The event also included a live performance by Jazz at Lincoln Center and food from longtime neighborhood staples Veselka and Nom Wah Tea Parlor. Both restaurants will also have locations in Essex Crossing’s Market Line, which is opening on October 23.

New York City Council Member Margaret Chin said, “The mass displacement of families from the Lower East Side in the 1960s showed the devastating human costs of Robert Moses era

development pursued at the expense of working communities of color. Essex Crossing has served as an opportunity for us to right this wrong and fulfill the long-neglected promise made to these New Yorkers. I'm proud to stand with the community to dedicate this new park to the powerful memories of these former site tenants – 27 of whom have finally come back home.”

Donald Capoccia, Managing Partner at BFC Partners, said, “We are proud to join Council Member Chin in dedicating this park to the Lower East Side families that were displaced 50 years ago. The plaque in the park will honor the former residents and the struggle they faced, as we continue to work with the community to offer them the chance to move back home.”

Delancey Street Associates comprises BFC Partners, L+M Development Partners, Taconic Investment Partners, the Prusik Group and the Goldman Sachs Urban Investment Group.

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