

Letters of Support

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VICTORIA THEATRE : “NOT A DONE DEAL”

Harlem New York City, January 24, 2008 – Everyone interested or concerned should be aware of the fact that HCDC sent Danforth Development Partners, LLC back to the “drawing board”; Williams was given a “memorandum of understanding”; not a contract. Before the satisfied state enters into contracts, there must be a public hearing.

Some of HCDC board members have either abstained or are not with the Danforth proposal and according to the RFP the State, should it choose, can award the Victoria project to a developer that had not gone through the bidding process at all.

The community has duly noted the public relations campaign waged on behalf of Danforth and there are questions regarding some of the information presented. It was reported by the Manhattan Commercial Real Estate organization and alluded to by many others that the Danforth corporation owns the buildings at 215 West 125th Street and 55 West 125th Street. One building is managed and leased by the Cogswell Group and the other is also owned by them; not by Danforth Parnters LLC. The press releases and interviews are reinforcing this false information. Doesn't anyone investigate or verify these false reports? Is the community to surmise that Danforth, perhaps, has never developed a project of the magnitude of the Victoria?

Williams stated in an interview with the Black Star News “The Victoria is a Harlem Icon”. If Mr. Williams truly believes this, why is he planning to demolish the Victoria? The Victoria has been deemed by the State Preservation organization to have landmark qualities; therefore, the developer can not, **by law**, demolish the theatre without a profound reason. No developer should be allowed to do away with a 2,394 seat theatre by replacing it with two “glorified closets”; one with 99 seats and the other 199 seats. No reason can justify this madness.

Continued



The Harlem Victoria Restoration Group must insist, on behalf of the community to be brought to the table before the final decision is made regarding the development of the Victoria. We as a community are 52% or more unemployed and this project, if properly handled will go a long way towards alleviating some of the joblessness that exists in Harlem

HVRG, as we write this, has gathered a team which contains the financial resources needed and an experienced high profile construction company that will bring the Victoria to a "win-win" successful conclusion

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