

DAILY NEWS



Vote puts W. Side in the zone

THE CITY PLANNING Commission approved a massive rezoning of Manhattan's far West Side yesterday, just minutes after shouting protesters decried the plan to change the city landscape.

The commission voted 10 to 1 to approve the 59-block redevelopment plan that covers a vast swath of Manhattan, from 30th to 43rd Sts. between Seventh and 12th Aves.

The proposed \$1.4 billion football stadium seen by the city as crucial to New York's 2012 Olympic bid was not part of the vote, since it would rise on state land. But the project loomed large at yesterday's planning commission session.

The vote marks a critical milestone in the Bloomberg administration's

most significant and far-reaching economic development project. The City Council is expected to vote on the rezoning within the next two months.

The vote "brings us one step closer to transforming Manhattan's last frontier into a vibrant, accessible, 24/7 commercial and residential neighborhood," Mayor Bloomberg said.

Amanda Burden, the commission's chairwoman, called the rezoning a "visionary blueprint" that will "secure New York City's economic future."

The rezoning would create 200,000 new jobs, officials say.

BY MICHAEL SAUL
DAILY NEWS CITY HALL BUREAU

The plan also would preserve 2,600 affordable housing units, with a total of 13,600 new units in the area. Some 26 million square feet of commercial development would be created.

John Raskin, a member of the Hell's Kitchen/Hudson Yards Alliance, led a group of roughly two dozen protesters who interrupted the meeting after Commissioner Karen Phillips voiced the sole opposition.

JUAN GONZALEZ

Now the real fight for the West Side begins.

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"The City Planning Commission has not done enough to create guaranteed affordable housing in our neighborhood," Raskin said. "We think that this plan was designed primarily to serve the needs of the stadium and that the needs of the actual people of New York come secondary."

Phillips said she voted against the rezoning, in part, because the proposal for a \$1.4 billion stadium "compromises" the entire redevelopment project.

"It's a wonderful plan," she said. "[But] we don't need a stadium to reinvigorate the area."