We Need Affordable Housing

Hurdle cleared for Olympic stadium, but more loom

MANHATTAN With time growing short and international attention growing intense, the city's Olympic organizers celebrated a critical court victory yesterday that bolstered plans of building the much-debated $4 billion Manhattan stadium at the heart of its bid to host the 2012 Summer Games.

"We are extremely pleased with today's court decision regarding the Olympic Stadium," said Jay Krieger, executive director of the NYC2012 organizing group. "The court has ruled in favor of the stadium, and totally rejected all of the bogus arguments intended to stop the project."

The timing of the ruling by state Supreme Court Justice Herman Cahn was critical to New York's hopes of hosting the Olympics. On Monday, 14 states members of the International Olympic Committee will receive an evaluation of the city's bid: without the stadium, New York's chances of winning the IOC's July 6 vote against four other cities would be negligible.

Stadium opponents promised appeals of Cahn's 37-page decision, which found no irregularities in the bidding that awarded the West Side Yards to the New York Jets. The property was owned by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

The decision was just one more step in the long, laborious process to either start or stop construction at the Hell's Kitchen site. Today, the state Public Authorities Control Board may — or may not — vote on state funding for the project.

"It's time to go ahead and vote yes," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said.