



National Mobilization Against SweatShops

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Press Advisory

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City-Backed 'Chinatown Working Group' Will Now Unite Lower East Side with Chinatown in Rezoning Plan

Latinos, African Americans and Chinese to Have Voice in Planning Process--Call for 'Downzoning' to Protect Homes and Community

When: Monday, March 22, 2010, 11:30am

Where: NMASS Lower East Side Workers Center
59 Hester Street (at Essex Street)
Lower East Side, Manhattan
'F' train to "East Broadway" station

What: Press Conference

Who: Low-Income Latino & African American residents and workers from the Lower East Side of Manhattan

On Monday, low-income Latino and African American members of the National Mobilization Against SweatShops (NMASS) will announce the recent victories to a) have the Lower East Side included in the rezoning plan of the city-backed Chinatown Working Group, and b) open up its planning process to include proportional representation of the community which is comprised mainly of low-income Latino, African American and Chinese working people.

NMASS and other members of the *Coalition to Protect Chinatown & the Lower East Side* have joined the Chinatown Working Group to develop a rezoning plan that will prioritize downzoning to limit the height and bulk of future development. This will help protect the low-income housing and small businesses of the community.

A rezoning plan for the Lower East Side and Chinatown is urgent in light of the discriminatory rezoning plan that was approved by the City in late 2008 which protected the East Village from tall luxury development, but excluded the Lower East Side and Chinatown from such

protections. Since then, the community has seen a drastic increase in the evictions of low-income residents and small businesses, and the skyrocketing of rents.

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