

# NEW YORK YIMBY

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## Proposed Affordable Housing Development in Westchester Square Receives Strong Support from Local Community

BY: SEBASTIAN MORRIS 7:30 AM ON FEBRUARY 9, 2019

Back in October 2018, YIMBY revealed a batch of fresh renderings and site plans for a proposed affordable housing development in the Westchester Square community of The Bronx. Today, the project is expected to move forward as intended following strong support from neighborhood residents, small business owners, and local union members.

Approvals for the nine-story development, which



Rendering of 1340 Blondell Avenue (Aufgang Architects)



Site plan for 1340 Blondell Avenue (Aufgang Architects)



Elevation diagram illustrates proposed building components at 1340 Blondell Avenue (Aufgang Architects)

required a major zoning amendment, were in part reliant on a positive local response at a scheduled City Planning Commission hearing on January 30th. According to John Bonizio, chairman of the Westchester Square Business Improvement District, over 100 local small business owners and residents in the neighborhood have signed a petition in support of the project.

“The site today is an abandoned auto repair yard and the Blondell Commons development will bring much needed affordable housing, new retail space, street activity, and vitality to what is now an unattractive street that is dark and empty at night,” said neighborhood resident Alex Garoni,

who spoke in support of rezoning at the hearing.

Designed by Aufgang Architects, the residential area would measure 206,241 square feet divided among 227 affordable units, plus one apartment for the building's superintendent. Parking will also be available for 225 vehicles.

Following 24 months of construction, the developer anticipates full completion in 2021.



Credit: Westchester Square Business Improvement District

Photo Caption: January 30, 2019—Supporters of Blondell Commons affordable housing project in the Bronx packed today's City Planning Rezoning Commission rezoning hearing.