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Hunters Point South ripped as unaffordable by housing advocates

BY DONALD BERTRAND and JESS WISLOSKI

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Chanting "low-cost housing! Low-cost housing!" a group of about 50 affordable housing advocates slammed the planned 5,000 units at Hunters Point South, saying the housing would be beyond the grasp of 60% of those living in Queens.

Last year, the mayor announced plans to build the homes that would be affordable to families earning \$60,000 to \$145,000 a year - on the southern portion of the Queens West development site.

"On this piece of public land, we're very disappointed to see that over half the public is being excluded from this use," said Hannah Weinstock of Queens Community House, at an environmental hearing held in Long Island City last week.

"It's very excluding to say they will only subsidize people earning more than \$50,000 and less than \$150,000," Weinstock said. "I don't know why anyone who's making \$130,000 would need help paying their rent."

The Rev. Lancelot Waldron, president of Queens Congregations United for Action, said that most Queens families make less than \$45,000 a year.

"We are deeply dismayed that the city's proposal for so-called affordable housing at Hunters Point South excludes low- and moderate-income people entirely," said Waldron, the pastor of Corona Congregational Church.

He joined others, including representatives of the Pratt Center for Community Development and Habitat for Humanity, in calling for 20% of the housing to be for low-income families.