RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York approve an Amendment to the Brooklyn College Master Plan, which has been developed to accommodate the anticipated needs of the College.

EXPLANATION: In 1995, the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York approved a Master Plan for Brooklyn College. This Amendment to that Master Plan proposes strategies to address the College’s anticipated growth and the need to modernize facilities on campus to provide adequate instructional space and student support services.

Brooklyn College is one of the City University of New York’s (CUNY) eleven senior colleges. The College was established in 1930 when the NYC Board of Higher Education combined the City College branch for Evening Sessions at the Boys High School in Bedford-Stuyvesant and the Hunter College Brooklyn branch for women, forming its third four-year college. Its first offices were housed at 383 Pearl Street and classes were held in rented space near Borough Hall.

In 1934, a handshake between President Franklin D. Roosevelt and New York City Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia provided financial resources to purchase the present site from Woods Harmon Developers. Randolph Evans, with the firm Corbett Harrison & Mac Murray, designed the original five red brick Georgian buildings. The construction was financed by the Federal Emergency Administration for Public Works and construction took just over two years. The College opened on October 18, 1937.

Brooklyn College is currently situated on 37 acres in the Midwood section of Brooklyn. It is bounded by Ocean Avenue on the west, the Long Island Railroad on the south, Campus Road on the north, and Amsforte Place and Campus Road on the east. Bedford Avenue divides the campus into two sections. Today there are approximately 2,266,000 gross sq feet (GSF) and 1,375,589 net assignable square feet (NASF) held in 13 buildings. It is a commuter school serving students from all parts of New York City, who routinely travel by public transportation. Brooklyn College was named the most beautiful campus by the Princeton Review in 2003 and remained in the top five in 2004.

Based on the Fall 2010 enrollment of 12,385 full-time equivalent students (FTES), the College has a current space need of 1,349,571 NASF when benchmarked against similar four-year institutions. The current conditions represent a space surplus of 26,018 NASF.
This Master Plan Amendment is based on a projected 2020 college enrollment of 16,942 FTES, requiring a total of 1,464,755 NASF. The projected conditions represent a deficit of 89,166 NASF (160,500 GSF). However, the actual amount of square footage needed to be constructed is considerably more in order to replace proposed demolitions. Roosevelt Hall/Roosevelt Extension is slated for immediate (within 2-3 years) demolition, followed by the WEB building at a date still to be determined. Together, these two buildings account for approximately 200,000 NASF of the existing 1,375,589 NASF. Therefore, in order to meet the space needs of 2020, approximately 400,000 GSF of new construction will be required.

To meet this projected space need, the Master Plan Amendment calls for new construction and the renovation of existing facilities.

The design firm, Pfeiffer Partners, was selected in Spring of 2009 and the project began on October 26, 2009.

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