

## **MM-1            MAYORAL MINUTE - FUTURE CITIES STUDY TOUR**

**Department    Executive Services**

**Author Initials: AT**

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The Study Tour to the United States of America from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September was undertaken by delegates from six New South Wales Councils. Elected representatives from the City of Canada Bay comprised Councillors Megna, Kenzler and myself. Councillors from other councils included Councillor Lawrie McKinna Mayor of Gosford, Councillor Steve Russell Mayor of Hornsby, Councillor Rosana Tyler Deputy Mayor of Marrickville, Councillor Jacqueline Townsend Mayor of Pittwater, Councillor Gordon Bradbery Lord Mayor of Wollongong and Katherine O'Regan Deputy Mayor Woollahra Council and 2013 Alumni Representative.

The purpose of the study tour which was led by Professor Ed Blakely and Ms Sandy Burgoyne from the University of Sydney United States Studies Centre was to meet with city representatives from San Francisco and New York, and inspect their respective city and village urban renewal projects.

Locations visited included:

- San Francisco and the East Bay, California
- Patchogue, New York
- Long Beach, New York
- Bridgeport Connecticut
- Long Branch New Jersey
- Jersey City New Jersey
- Brooklyn Greenway Initiative
- Brooklyn Navy Yards.

In addition to the Mayors and city officials from the above sites, we met representatives from:

- New York Department of City Planning
- New York Economic Development Corporation
- The JPB Foundation
- New York City Business Improvement Districts
- ARUP
- Numerous project managers and workers.

The purpose of the meetings and inspections was to gain an appreciation at first hand of successful city renewal projects in different jurisdictions. Examples that resonated with the Australian delegation included:

- Revival of down town locations with new or adapted reuse residential and mixed use developments;
- The value of affordable housing as an economic as well as a social driver for city revival;
- The critical importance of local government as leader with state and federal support and finance, to start and drive the renewal process;
- Successful city functions require collaboration and cooperation between local government, business, institutions and interest groups.

Jersey City which was matched with City of Canada Bay was an example of how degraded and contaminated railway and industrial land could be remediated and recreated as a vibrant economic and residential centre.

Canada Bay's innovative use of Voluntary Planning Agreements to deliver community benefits and facilities was recognised by Professor Blakely as a leading example to the group.

The immediate outcome for the City of Canada Bay will be to focus the lessons learned towards the urban renewal area of Rhodes East.

Specific concepts will require development utilising the continuing support of the United States Study Centre.

An attachment to this Minute details the sites visited and lessons learned on the Tour.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the report be received and noted.