

# Brooklyn Daily Eagle

## Grocery Options Not Meeting Needs in Downtown Brooklyn, Survey Says; Rally Planned

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FORT GREENE — Families United for Racial and Economic Equality (more popularly known as FUREE) will protest the lack of grocery store options in Downtown Brooklyn at a rally today at 3 p.m. in front of the Bravo Supermarket at Myrtle and Carlton avenues in Fort Greene.

The group will be joined by representatives of the Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center and Council Member Letitia James and other elected officials to announce the release of a new report, “Food Fight: Expanding Access to Affordable and Healthy Food in Downtown Brooklyn.”

The report, an analysis of the quality, availability and affordability of food options in the area, found that 53 percent of the survey respondents want current stores to improve the quality of food and 84 percent of respondents wish they had more grocery options.

Respondents also report finding supermarkets in Downtown Brooklyn too expensive, according to Ilana Berger of FUREE.

“Grocery store options are not meeting the needs of residents, creating a food desert,” said Berger. Another FUREE member said, “Right now, it’s easier to get tobacco in this community than it is to get a tomato.”

Speakers today will expose the dire food conditions in Downtown Brooklyn and will suggest community-supported alternatives moving forward, including demanding that developers planning to build new supermarkets in the area — like John Catsimatidis — listen to additional community concerns about creating living wage jobs and having a fresh food supply priced appropriately to the income level in the neighborhood.

For additional information, please contact FUREE at (718) 852-2960.

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