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Bushwick Inlet Park. | Kai Brinker

Deadline passes on deal to secure land for Bushwick Inlet Park

By **EMILY JULIA ROCHE** and **SALLY GOLDENBERG** | 08/08/16 02:27 PM EDT

The deadline for a deal that would secure the final piece of land needed for the Bushwick Inlet Park passed without resolution on Monday, bringing dozens of protesters and advocates to demonstrate on the steps of City Hall.

Assemblyman Joseph Lentol and state Sen. Daniel Squadron, who attended the protest, indicated that if the city can't make the deal, they will turn to Gov. Andrew Cuomo for support in securing the land.

Lentol called the park the "linchpin" of an agreement signed in 2005, and criticized Mayor Bill de Blasio for not getting the deal done.

“Government has to keep its promises, otherwise you can’t rely on government for anything,” said Lentol, adding that he was prepared to ask the governor “to use his power of eminent domain” to obtain the site.

The city made an offer of \$100 million for the site in June, giving owner Norman Brodsky 60 days to accept. Although the deadline passed Monday, the offer remains valid and the money is still available in the city’s budget.

The construction of a waterfront park along Kent Avenue was included as part of a rezoning of the area. While city officials have been able to acquire most of the land needed for the park, they have yet to strike a deal on the site, currently occupied by a CitiStorage warehouse.

The city has spent nearly \$200 million to acquire land for the park. An administration official who would only speak on background said eminent domain is unlikely, but the mayor’s team has not completely ruled it out.

“The City remains open to discussions with the owner about ways to guarantee that the community needs are met,” wrote Natalie Grybauskas, a spokeswoman for the mayor, in an email. “As evidenced by the hundreds of millions the City has already invested in the park, we are committed to providing green space for North Brooklynites. A negotiated sale is the most expedient way to acquire this property, and the City’s offer is fair.”

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams also attended the protest, saying that “green dollars should not get in the way of green grass.” Adams, who attended an overnight “camp-out” protest at the site last month, said that he supported the city’s use of eminent domain to seize the land for the construction of the park.

“Greed should not get in the way of a park that was promised to this community,” said Public Advocate Letitia James at Monday’s demonstration. “They were promised this park in exchange for a rezoning that has given way to new developments and high rises in their neighborhood. We see the high rises ... but the Bushwick Inlet Park is not there. It has become a fantasy, and we want to make it a reality.”

Brodsky did not immediately respond to requests for comment.