



Pol panel nixes Bx. superstore

By FRANKIE EDOZIEN

A backlash against “big box” superstores was unleashed yesterday when a City Council panel unanimously rejected an application from BJ’s Wholesale Club to open in The Bronx, effectively killing a project that had been in the works for a year.

BJ’s had applied for zoning changes and a special permit so its developer, Related Companies, could build a 130,000-square-foot megastore on the border of Soundview and Castle Hill.

The rejection by the council’s Land Use Committee was unusual because BJ’s has the support of Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano, who represents the area.

Organized labor had intensely lobbied lawmakers to deny zoning changes because of BJ’s alleged anti-union policies, but council members said the only reason they killed the project was concern about traffic.

“I think all of you know this is just a great big smoke screen,” a peeved Provenzano said.

“We all know that the bottom line here is the unions.”

She said the council often wailed that there aren’t jobs for minorities, and “this may be just a little help, but it’s a help.”

The entire council is expected to deny the application next week.