

# DAILY NEWS

## Nod seen for redo of Bx. Terminal

BY FRANK LOMBARDI  
DAILY NEWS CITY HALL BUREAU

THE MUCH-DEBATED redevelopment of the Bronx Terminal Market into a \$395 million retail center is expected to receive the green light today from the City Council.

"It looks like it's set to go," said a ranking Council member involved in the zoning and land-use approvals required for the project to go forward.

Votes are scheduled this morning before two committees, with the full Council set to vote on the project later in the day.

Months of bickering, infighting and pressure tactics by unions and other critics of the proposed Gateway Center complex have led to a community benefits agreement between the developer and members of the Bronx delegation, according to Council sources.

Details were sketchy yesterday, but the agreement includes a job-referral program that will help Bronx residents apply for the thousands of jobs that will be generated by the redevelopment of the underused and dingy Bronx Terminal Market.

Also said to be included in the agreement is a commitment by the developer that Gateway Center's stores would honor food stamps and other food subsidies, such as those available under the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program for pregnant women and nursing mothers.

Several Council members critical of the Gateway Center project had contended that a BJ's Wholesale Club will be an anchor tenant. BJ's has a policy of not accepting food stamps or WIC vouchers at its three current city stores, two in Queens and one in Brooklyn.

Councilman Hiram Monserrate (D-Queens) said a no-food-stamps policy discriminates against poor and working families and has no place anywhere in the city, particularly in the impoverished South Bronx.

A member of the Land Use Committee said the Gateway Center application meets all the technical land-use criteria required for Council approval.

But other issues — such as whether the Gateway Center will include nonunion big-box stores such as a BJ's — could also affect how some members vote today.

*flombardi@nydailynews.com*