

# Homeless Take Protest to Trump Tower



Newsday / Richard Lee

Some homeless protesters carry signs outside Trump Tower in Manhattan to show their displeasure with a city-state deal with developer Donald Trump.

By Jack Sirica

As stretch limousines pulled to the curb, and shoppers in furs and thick sheepskin coats strolled by, a group of homeless men and women marched in front of Trump Tower yesterday to protest the fact that Donald Trump got the money and they didn't.

Specifically, they were protesting a \$150-million commitment by the state and city to help Trump build a new stadium in Flushing, Queens. For two hours yesterday, the 16 residents of the Emmaus House shelter in Harlem sought to convince passersby on Fifth Avenue that at least part of the sum should go to the city's homeless.

"We got stadiums in New York," said marcher Kevin Walker, 33. "We need housing."

Or, as protester Hameed Ibrahim put it: "We don't have it and we really need it. Donald Trump has it and he should give it up."

It was impossible to tell what

Trump thought of Ibrahim's proposal because he wasn't around.

Mayor Edward I. Koch, however, didn't think much of it. His spokesman, Efrain Parrilla, paraphrased Koch's thoughts by saying:

"This city does more for its homeless people than any other city in the country. Just like the city needs middle- and low-income people, it also needs high-income people such as Donald Trump who promote business and give people lots of jobs . . . We need to build these things [skyscrapers and stadiums]" for money and jobs.

Trump recently received approval to build a \$286-million, 82,000-seat domed stadium if he can sign a National Football League team to play there. The city and state have agreed to put up \$150 million to buy and clear the land, and to improve highway and subway access. Trump would repay those costs over 25 years and then hand over 25 percent of future profits.



# EMMAUS

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**HOMELESS AND THOSE WHO WORK WITH THE HOMELESS**  
**PROTEST CITY/STATE \$150 MILLION TRUMP LOAN FOR STADIUM**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BASIC FACTS:** A demonstration against the \$150 million Trump loan, at Trump Tower, 56 St and 5th Avenue at 1030am, saturday, December 21. Sponsored by Emmaus House, a community of homeless people in Harlem and East Harlem, in joint action with others working for the homeless.

At a time when some 50,000 homeless people shiver in abandoned buildings, the street or warehouse-shelters (with 200,000 people potentially homeless), the city and state have announced a loan of \$150 million to real estate baron Donald Trump to build a sports stadium next to Shea Stadium, repayable in 25 years. The reason given is to attract the NFL team back within city limits, instead of 15 minutes away, across the Hudson. Half the seats will be open to the public, the rest catering to the rich who can afford such luxury.

The city and state have their priorities upside down. To build such a Taj Mahal in the midst of this American Calcutta, where the streets are not paved with gold but with homeless people, is a crime against humanity.

The city and state have taken a preferential option for the rich, enabling those who have money to make money, without offering the poor and homeless the means of building new lives. Let the city and state turn such a wasteful loan into a Low Income Revolving Loan enabling poor people to renovate city housing.

Real Estate Developers have become the Royalty of NYC (Donald Trump, Harry Helmsley, Sam Lefrak and Sol Goldman posted a net worth of several billion dollars). Speculators are buying up buildings, evicting the tenants and making megabucks from luxury condos. Lifetime residents are forced to move. These developers are helping to create the homelessness we see about us this Christmas, the feast of the homeless.

This Christmas we are celebrating the birth of Jesus, born homeless. We will take our stand at Trump Tower with the poor, the homeless, the defenseless, standing and waiting for a word of hope;

A word of hope from the city and state that tax money belonging to the people will be used not to make the rich richer nor to build pleasure palaces, but will be used with some priority to those without housing, work or full human life.

A word of hope from the real estate developers like Donald Trump, saying they will use some of their real estate and money to eliminate homelessness from New York City.

A word of hope from the churches, crying out against such a crime against the poor and sharing a percentage of their income with the homeless and the poor.

~ "There is enough in this world for every man's need  
but not every man's greed" -GHANDI