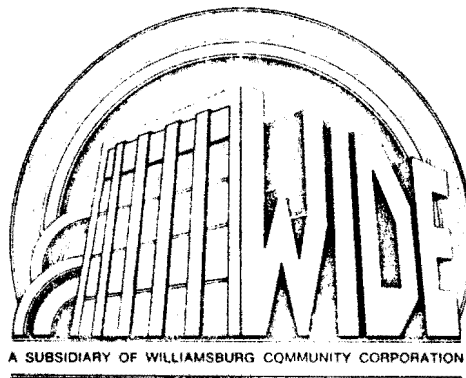


**The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “Maduro Events - Oct. 21, 1976 - Williams Industrial Development Enterprises, Inc. Harlem Storefront, New York City” of the Reynaldo P. Maduro Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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## WILLIAMSBURG INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISES, INC.

September 29, 1976

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

The Williamsburg Industrial Development Enterprises, Inc. (W.I.D.E.), the nation's first community sponsored "Vertical Industrial Park" cordially invites you to our Opening Day Ceremony at 12 noon, Thursday, October 21st, 1976 at 544-60 Park Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

This Opening Day celebration is to share with you the "Pride of W.I.D.E." a happy ending to a story that started five years ago, when a large factory employing five hundred people left Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

The story is only too well-known and sadly lived out in the inner cities of our country--abandoned factory buildings and millions of unemployed, leaving social decay which follows in the wake of business migration to the call of the suburbs.

W.I.D.E., Mr. President, is a community organization in Brooklyn, that decided to attempt to turn the tide. The residents of this impoverished area--proud of their community and unwilling to accept defeat in the face of spreading urban blight--decided that they could "do things better ourselves."

Thanks to you, Mr. President, and your administration, in particular, Assistant Secretary John Eden of the U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration and other officials, we obtained a Public Works Grant of \$2,450,000 and a Technical Assistance Grant of \$169,880 to help concieve, develop and execute the conversion of the enormous Detecto Scales factory building into a modern "Vertical Industrial Park."



Now, after four years of planning and hard work, this once-abandoned giant loft building will open its doors again, but this time to house several manufacturers who will provide upwards of 1,000 jobs.

In addition to the revitalization of an old building and the infusion of a thousand jobs, which is bolstering our area in ways undreamed of, the resulting cash flow has enabled us to maintain some of our vital social services and economic development programs and to amass a capital accumulation sufficient to invest in other projects, notably new housing.

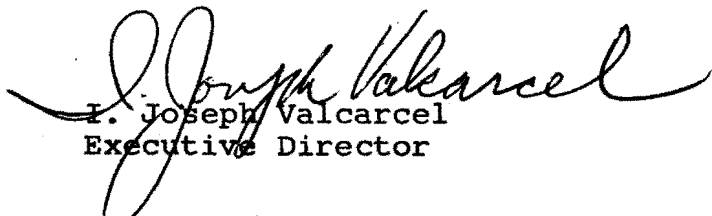
However, perhaps the most important outcome of this unique "Community in Partnership with Government and Business" project is a revived community spirit that may transcend all the practical benefits. People here know, Mr. President, that they all own a substantial piece of real estate in their own neighborhood.

Our project, the first of its kind in the nation, will serve as a model for the many hard pressed communities throughout the country.

We would be most gratified, Mr. President, and deeply honored to have you personally appear to say a few words to call attention to the significance of this event.

The residents of Williamsburg, Brooklyn want to share this happy occasion with you.

Respectfully yours,

  
I. Joseph Valcarcel  
Executive Director

IJV/md



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

DATE October 19, 1976

TO: James E. Connor

FROM: William J. Baroody, Jr.

SUBJECT: Request for Travel

NAME Reynaldo P. Maduro  
(Typed and Signature)

DESTINATION New York City

PURPOSE OF TRIP 12:00N Address grand opening vertical industrial  
park under auspices WIDE  
6:00P Address East Harlem Storefront opening.

DEPARTURE DATE 10-21-76 RETURN DATE 10-22-76

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION Air

LODGING ACCOMMODATIONS TBD  
(Name)

(Address)

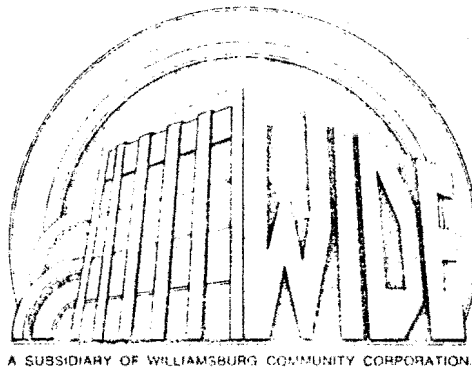
ESTIMATED TOTAL EXPENSES \$ \$100.00

AUTHORIZATION OF SUPERVISOR   
(Signature of Certifying Officer if appropriate)

ACKNOWLEDGED BY: James E. Connor

(Submit in Duplicate)





## WILLIAMSBURG INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISES, INC.

September 29, 1976

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The White House  
Washington, D. C.

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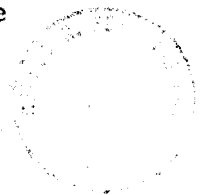
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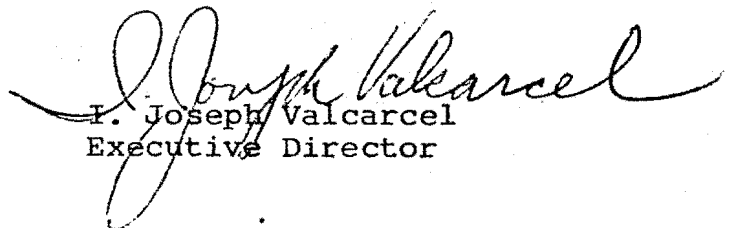
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I. Joseph Valcarcel  
Executive Director

IJV/md



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 20, 1976

The dedication of the Nation's first community-sponsored Vertical Industrial Park is a splendid example of what can be accomplished by concerned citizens working together for the benefit of all. It is a success story that can bring the greatest pride and satisfaction to those who are associated with the Williamsburg Industrial Development Enterprises. I welcome the opportunity to commend their effective hard work.

I am confident that this innovative project will serve as a springboard for future redevelopment in the Williamsburg area and for the creation of a stronger economic base with more jobs and better living standards for its residents. I wish it many rewarding years of useful civic service.

*Sherald R. Ford*



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 20, 1976

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*Gerald R. Ford*