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City of Buffalo Train Station Site Selection Committee
Buffalo Common Council Chamber
Buffalo, NY

My name is Cynthia Dawidowicz,

I have lived on the East side of Buffalo my entire life watching the neighborhood change over time. I am one of those who always holds out hope for new development and change for the better on the East side.

I grew up at the foot of the Central Terminal on Peckham Street, you might know the place next door... Arties Bar.

My entrepreneurial spirit started early by selling lemonade on my front lawn when I was a little girl. My biggest customer was my grandfather who worked as a baggage carrier at the Central Terminal as he would stop by after work for a visit.

Since I've grown up and my children have grown, that spirit never died and I opened a successful business, a chocolate shop called Strawberry Island Chocolate on the Broadway Market. Over the past 13 years we've grown our business from that single location to serve the Easter crowd, which visits the Market every year. And have added seasonal vendor shows that we serve locally and regionally.

I've also been a vendor at the Central Terminal at every possible event including Dyngus Day and Halloween over that same period.

I've seen the potential of what the Central Terminal can be during those events and remember what it used to be, as I did as a kid on Peckham Street. I've never really given up hope on that beautiful lady the Central Terminal.

Now, I have the ability to join the potential renaissance of Buffalo's East side.

As a small business owner, we are committed to seeking the opening of a kiosk location for Strawberry Island Chocolate within the main halls of the Central Terminal. This would add 1-2 full-time jobs to the economy.

I can see people from everywhere walking through the halls purchasing our gift-wrapped sponge candy, Charlie Chaplin and mini chocolate buffalos, taking their souvenirs with them back home.

The Central Terminal is a beacon of what could be, and will spur economic growth in the historic East side of Buffalo. This will require both public and private development. I feel the choice of the Central Terminal, as the new location of the Amtrak Train station will be the catalyst needed to energize private development.

Cynthia Dawidowicz
Concerned Citizen
President, Strawberry Island Chocolate