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2nd Avenue subway expansion threatens local businesses and residents

by: Jay Dow
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NEW YORK (PIX11) — Residents and business owners are speaking out in response to the MTA's planned expansion of the 2nd Avenue subway that will eventually run up to 125th Street.

One resident, Lou Nicaj, the longtime owner of the Eagle Tile shop in East Harlem, showed PIX11 his materials supply lot on 2nd Avenue between East 115th and 116th Streets.

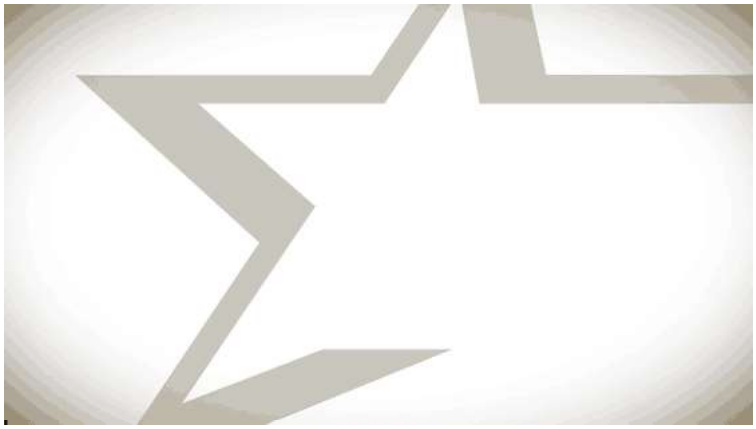
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"If I can't have this lot, ecause I have the material right here. I ca

Nicaj and several other business owners, along with renting residents who currently occupy several lots on the block, don't have a choice.

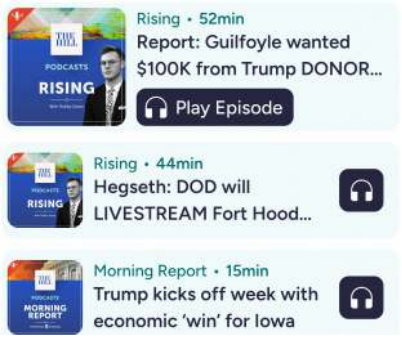
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Several lots are now set to be cleared through New York City's use of eminent domain so the MTA can move forward with phase 2 of the 2nd Avenue subway expansion.

One tenant told PIX11 News she wants to stay because her kids attend the school in the neighborhood.

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Dating back to the construction of the Cross Bronx Expressway in the 1940s and 50s, and more recently, the first phase of the 2nd Avenue subway expansion, the government has successfully used eminent domain to take private property for public use, in exchange for compensation.

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An MTA spokesperson tells PIX11 News the agency is adhering to federal rules and will consequently provide relocation assistance to displaced households and businesses, adding they will also be given a list of similar nearby properties and an offer to connect them with real estate professionals.

The spokesperson released the following statement:

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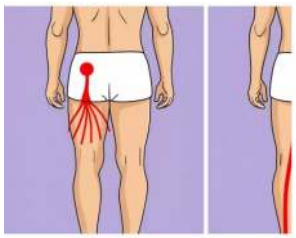
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Phase 2 of the 2nd Avenue subway expansion has a nearly $7 billion price tag and is set to be completed in the fall of 2032.

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