



Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation

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August 6, 2010

Hon. Scott Stringer, President
Borough of Manhattan
One Centre Street, 19th floor
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Amanda Burden, Chair
New York City Planning Commission
22 Reade Street
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Christine Quinn, Speaker
New York City Council
224 West 30th Street, Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001

Re: Far West Village Rezoning and 685 Washington Street

Dear Borough President Stringer, Chair Burden and Speaker Quinn:

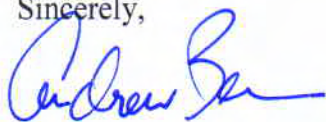
As you know, the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation and many West Village community groups have been deeply concerned about inappropriate development in the Far West Village. In April 2008, we proposed and began to push for the rezoning of the C6-1 zone now going through the public approval process. We have been frustrated by delays in action on and support for this rezoning, and called for speedy movement on the process in part because we knew that at least two developments were proposed in the area under the old zoning.

Now at least one of those developments is moving ahead, and may seek to get foundations in the ground before the new zoning takes effect. This would allow the development to be completed under the terms of the old zoning. We recognize that this is the developer's right under the law. However, it is also your right to schedule your respective votes on the proposed rezonings at the earliest possible date, leaving the smallest window possible for developments to sneak in under the wire under the old zoning.

Last week the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) gave final approval to plans for 685 Washington Street. After being repeatedly denied information from the LPC which would help confirm whether or not the approved development would conform to the new zoning, the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation has since accessed the LPC file which shows conclusively that the approved building exceeds the allowable bulk/square footage/floor area ratio for the site under the terms of the new zoning.

I therefore strongly urge you to schedule your votes on the proposed rezoning as soon as possible. After more than two years of community groups pushing to have this rezoning considered and implemented, and numerous delays in that process, it would be a tremendous shame if this development were allowed to sneak in at the last moment under the old, outdated, inappropriate zoning.

Sincerely,



Andrew Berman
Executive Director

Cc: Greenwich Village Community Task Force
Federation to Preserve the Greenwich Village Waterfront & Great Port
West Village Committee
Perry Street Block Association
Perry Street Crusaders
Charles Street Block Association
Washington-West 11th Street Corp.
140 Charles Street Board and Residents