



**Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation**

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June 4, 2009

Hon. Amanda Burden
Director, NYC Department of City Planning
22 Reade Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: Requested Rezoning of C6-1 Zone in Far West Village

Dear Director Burden:

I write to inquire regarding the status of the Department's consideration of the request by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHP) and numerous community groups to propose changing the C6-1 zone in the Far West Village. We have requested that the Department propose changing the zoning to more appropriately limit the size and height of allowable development in the area, and to reduce or eliminate the bonus for commercial and community facility development.

As you know, GVSHP and other community groups first wrote to you about this in April, 2008 (letter attached). A year later, on April 6, 2009, GVSHP and several community groups held a community forum on the need to change the C6-1 zone in the Far West Village. Over 150 people attended and expressed strong support for our proposal to change the zoning, following which the Department received hundreds of letters from the public asking that this zoning be changed, and more than 300 people signed an on-line petition (attached) and another 300+ people signed a paper petition also urging that the zoning be changed.

Two months later, we anxiously await an answer from the Department about its willingness to consider such a zoning change, which we believe should happen as soon as possible. As per documentation that has been sent to the Department by GVSHP, there are as many as a dozen potential soft sites in this small zoning district. We and many neighbors and community groups are anxious to ensure that should any development take place in this area, it conforms to the scale and character of the neighborhood, which the current zoning does not require.

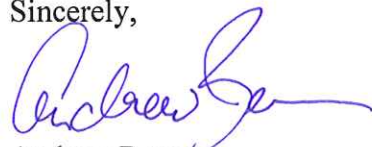
As you know, in 2005 when GVSHP was involved with pursuing what eventually became the rezoning of the Far West Village, we asked the Department to consider changing the zoning for this area, because the zoning potentially allowed out-of-scale and inappropriate development. At the time we were told that the Department did not see a need to change this zoning, as Landmarks Preservation Commission review would ensure the appropriate scale of new development, and the zoning bonus for commercial and community facility development was unlikely to be utilized since residential development was so much more desirable in this area.

Circumstances have changed considerably since 2005, and experience has now shown that developers will utilize the zoning bonus for commercial development in this area by building hotels, and Landmarks Preservation Commission review of proposed developments alone is not sufficient to ensure appropriate size and scale.

I thus strongly hope that the Department of City Planning will now expeditiously consider this request to propose changing the C6-1 zone in the Far West Village, which has such broad community support, before we face the specter of further inappropriate development in this area.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,



Andrew Berman
Executive Director

Cc: City Council Speaker Christine Quinn
Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer
Congressman Jerrold Nadler
State Senator Tom Duane
Assemblymember Deborah Glick
Community Board #2, Manhattan
Greenwich Village Community Task Force
Greenwich Village Block Associations
Charles St. Block Association
Jane St. Block Association
Perry St. Block Association
Perry St. Crusaders
135 Perry St. Owners' Corporation
131 Perry St. Apt. Corporation
Washington West 11th St. Owners' Corporation
Waverly Bank 11th Street Neighbors
West Village Committee
Federation to Preserve the Greenwich Village Waterfront & Great Port
Horatio Block Association
Far West 10th Street Block Association
Carmine Street Block Association
Washing. Sq.-Lower Fifth Avenue Community Association
West 12th Street Block Association