

# Community Action Alliance on NYU 2031

c/o 7 East 8th Street, #335, New York, NY 10003

15 Washington Place Tenants' Committee

October 18, 2010

200 Mercer Street Board

Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor

505 LaGuardia Place Board

Hon. Amanda Burden, City Planning Commission Chair

77 Bleecker Street Board

Hon. Robert Tierney, Landmarks Preservation Commission Chair

88 Bleecker Street Board

Hon. Christine Quinn, City Council Speaker

Bleecker Area Merchants and Residents Association

Hon. Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President

Central Village Block Association

Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman

Downtown Independent Democrats

Hon. Tom Duane, State Senator

East 10th Street Block Association

Hon. Deborah Glick, State Assemblymember

East Square Neighbors

Hon. Margaret Chin, City Councilmember

Friends of NoHo

Hon. Rosie Mendez, City Councilmember

Greenwich Village Block Associations

Hon. Jo Hamilton, Community Board #2 Chair

Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation

via fax and e-mail

Grove Street Block Association

## Re: Proposed NYU Developments within Silver Towers Complex

Horatio Street Association

Dear Mayor Bloomberg, Chair Burden, Chair Tierney, Speaker Quinn, Borough President Stringer, Congressman Nadler, State Senator Duane, Assemblymember Glick, Councilmember Chin, Councilmember Lopez, and Chair Hamilton:

LaGuardia Corner Gardens

New York University has recently filed an application seeking landmarks approval to construct a 399 ft. tall tower within the Silver Towers complex. In its publicity materials, the university claims that this proposal is "aligned with agreed-upon community principles ... [and] emerged from the planning process" which included community consultation," "respect[s] and adher[es] to the Pei (design) concept," and would be "complementary" to the landmarked complex.

Mercer-Houston Dog Run Association

As community groups which participated in this planning process and as stakeholders in the outcome of this application, **we wish to state unequivocally that this is completely untrue, and that we are adamantly opposed to the proposed addition to the Silver Towers complex, whether it is in the proposed landmarked site or on the supermarket site to the west which NYU proposes as an alternative.**

Mercer Street Block Association

Mulry Angle/West 11th Street Block Association

Perry Street Block Association

Public School Parents Advocacy Committee

Superblocks Coalition

Village Reform Democratic Club

Village Residents Alliance

Washington Place Block Association

Washington Square Village Tenants Association

West 10th Street Block Association

West 12th Street Block Association

West 13th Street Block Association

The proposed tower on the landmarked site cannot be built without landmarks approvals, zoning changes, and the transfer of public land to NYU. The alternate proposal to build on the supermarket site cannot happen before 2021 without lifting of urban renewal deed restrictions on the site by the City. **We strongly urge you not to support or approve any of these requests which would allow these totally inappropriate developments to move ahead.**

The Silver Towers complex design is a careful balance and arrangement of towers and open space, which is what led to the complex being landmarked in 2008 after a five-year community effort with widespread support. Both of these proposed additions to the complex would completely destroy the harmonious relationship which currently exists, as would the proposed addition of the massive “zipper loft” structure on the current Coles Gym site, and would fly in the face of the very rationale for landmark designation.

Fortunately, there is a third way, which would benefit not only Greenwich Village and the city as a whole. Community Board 1, Manhattan, has encouraged NYU to consider the many potential development sites, stalled projects, and empty buildings in the Financial District as an alternative for this and their other controversial proposed projects in Greenwich Village. There the development would not only benefit a struggling business district seeking to diversify and expand its economic base, but would be contextual in use and scale.

**We thus strongly urge you to not only reject NYU’s applications for these proposed developments, but to encourage them to explore the Financial District, as well as other potential locations, as a smarter and more appropriate alternative.**

Sincerely,



Constance Dondore, Coordinator  
15 Washington Place Tenants’ Committee



Andrew Amer  
200 Mercer Street Board



Patricia Albin, President  
505 LaGuardia Place Board



Jennifer Lewis, Senior Representative  
552 LaGuardia Place



Lee Schwartz  
88 Bleecker Street Board

Judith Callet

Judith Callet, Resident Chair  
Bleecker Area Merchants and Residents Association

David Handler

David Handler, Merchants Chair  
Bleecker Area Merchants and Residents Association

Rita Lee

Rita Lee, District Manager  
Community Board #2, Manhattan 1977-1996

Jeanne Wilcke

Jeanne Wilcke, President  
Downtown Independent Democrats

Mary Johnson

Mary Johnson, Coordinator  
East Square Neighbors

Stan Ries

Stan Ries  
Friends of NoHo

Martin Tessler

Martin Tessler  
Greenwich Village Block Associations

Andrew Berman

Andrew Berman, Executive Director  
Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation

Ellen Horan

Ellen Horan  
LaGuardia Corner Gardens

Elaine Hudson

Elaine Hudson, President  
Mercer Street Block Association

*Cynthia Crane*

Cynthia Crane, Chair  
Mulry Angle/West 11<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association

*Gerald Banu*

Gerald Banu, President  
Perry Street Block Association

*Raymond W. Cline*

Raymond W. Cline  
Superblocks Coalition

*Allan Horland*

Allan Horland, Co-President  
Washington Square Village Tenants Association