



October 11, 2005

Hon. Laura Osorio
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
New York City Department of Buildings
280 Broadway
New York, NY 10007
via fax: 212/566-5575

Dear Commissioner Osorio:

As you may know, today the New York City Council approved a rezoning for the Far West Village, which significantly reduces the allowable bulk and height of new development in much of the area. This is a rezoning which the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, and many in the community, fought long and hard for, and we look forward to its new provisions being strictly enforced by the Department of Buildings.

We are very concerned, however, that some developers may be seeking to continue work granted with permits under the old zoning, even though such zoning is no longer applicable and such construction no longer permitted under the new zoning. One such site is 360 West 11th Street, where owner Julian Schnabel is seeking to build a 9-story, 110-ft. tall addition atop his existing 3-story building. He only began work about a week or two ago, and we do not believe that the work has progressed sufficiently for the new development to be "grandfathered" under the old zoning. We ask that DOB immediately inspect the site and revoke the existing permits. We also ask that you examine work underway at 166 Perry Street, which also began recently but has not yet completed; here too we believe that in light of the stage which the work has reached the existing permits should be revoked.

I appreciate your immediate attention to this matter and look forward to hearing back from you about the results of the inspections and the Department's actions. Thanks you very much.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman
Executive Director

Executive Director
Andrew Berman

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