



**Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation**

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August 2, 2006

John Sexton, President
New York University
70 Washington Square South, rm. 1216
New York, NY 10012
via fax 212-995-4790 and mail

Dear President Sexton:

I write to express my deep disappointment with NYU about plans which have been filed for a 260 ft. tall dormitory at 120 East 12th Street, and to express my outrage over NYU's utter lack of good faith in handling of this project.

When the university first announced plans to build a dormitory on this site, while GVSHP had a great deal of concerns, we took NYU at its word, made quite publicly at the time, that it would handle this project "differently," and that it would listen to the community's concerns about the design and attempt to make changes to the initial design to reflect these concerns. The initial design, according to representatives of both NYU and its developer, Hudson Companies, was for an approximately 230-240 ft. tall building. After GVSHP, neighbors, the community board, and local elected officials provided NYU with a long list of entirely feasible suggested changes to the building we expected to hear back from the university about its decision and its plans.

Instead, all requests for information from NYU were denied, and we have just discovered that plans have been filed for, and work has begun upon, a building with none of our suggested changes, but which is approximately 30 feet taller than we had been told it would be. This is an outrageous breach of good faith, and frankly, I believe represents a new low, even for NYU, with whom we and the community have had numerous disputes over the years.

While GVSHP has disagreed strongly and publicly with NYU over the years about many of its decisions, there was generally an assumption that the university's public professions contained at least some kernel of truth. However, this latest development calls even that basic assumption into question.

If NYU is to maintain even a shred of credibility with the community and the public, the university must immediately halt this plan and rejoin in conversations about how to make this design compatible with the predominantly low-rise surrounding neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman
Executive Director

Cc: Mayor Michael Bloomberg
City Planning Commission Chair Amanda Burden
City Council Speaker Christine Quinn
Borough President Scott Stringer
State Senator Tom Duane
State Senator Martin Connor
City Councilmember Rosie Mendez
State Assemblymember Deborah Glick
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