

FOREWORD

This document is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Special West Chelsea District Rezoning and High Line Open Space project. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed action was accepted as complete by the New York City Department of City Planning as lead agency on December 20, 2004. Public notice of completion of the DEIS and a public hearing on the DEIS was published in the *City Record*, *Environmental News Bulletin*, and *New York Sun* on March 16, 2005. The City Planning Commission held a public hearing at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center of the Borough of Manhattan Community College, Theatre Two, 199 Chambers, Manhattan, on April 6, 2005 at 10 AM. The period for public review remained open until April 18, 2005.

The FEIS reflects all substantive comments made on the DEIS during the public hearing and subsequent comment period. The comments are summarized and responded to in Chapter 27 “Response to Comments.” Changes to the text and graphics of the FEIS were also made in response to comments. In addition, Chapter 23, “Alternatives” of the FEIS has been modified to add an analysis of a Revised Community Board 4 Alternative and a Revised Affordable Housing Alternative. The Revised Affordable Housing Alternative (Alternative F) was developed by the Department of City Planning in response to comments received during the public review process for the DEIS. This alternative reflects the Department’s modified ULURP application [(N 050161(A) ZRM) and (C050162(A) ZMM)] for the zoning map and text amendments. This alternative reflects changes made in regard to bulk, density and affordable housing. This alternative modifies and replaces the Affordable Housing Alternative analyzed in the DEIS.

The FEIS also includes one new appendix, Appendix H contains all written comments received during the public review period. In addition, the draft zoning text amendment for the Revised Affordable Housing Alternative has been added to Appendix A: Zoning Text Amendment and the reasonable worst case development scenario has been added to Appendix G (RWCDS Tables for Alternatives).

Except for this Foreword and Chapter 27 (which are new), all additions made to the text since publication of the DEIS are indicated by double-underlining the text. Deleted text is indicated by strikethrough text.