



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 3
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Gigi Li, Board Chair

Susan Stetzer, District Manager

April 19, 2013

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

John B. Rhea, Chairman
New York City Housing Authority
250 Broadway, 12th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Shaun Donovan, Secretary
United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Mayor Bloomberg, Chairman Rhea and Secretary Donovan:

I am writing on behalf of Community Board 3 Manhattan to renew the request made in the two previous letters to Mayor Bloomberg and Chairman Rhea calling for a postponement of the release of the Requests for Proposals (RFPs) related to NYCHA's infill development plans in our community board. These letters and others sent by elected officials representing our community have called for more substantive disclosure and discussion between NYCHA and the residents of the affected developments as well as with other neighborhood stakeholders including community boards. This letter is also addressed to the Secretary of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in recognition of HUD's role in overseeing compliance with the Section 18 consultation requirements.

We appreciate that NYCHA has provided more information about the agency's infill development plans on their website, has taken some steps to meet with the tenant associations of affected developments in large groups and in round tables, and on April 18th made a presentation and engaged in a discussion with us at our Housing and Land Use Committee meeting. At that meeting we were pleased to hear that the agency no longer plans to release the RFP for these sites at the end of this month. We also heard that the agency recognizes the need for providing technical assistance to the tenant associations at the affected developments so that they can more effectively discuss the plans' impact.

We were not convinced that the short postponement of the RFP or the vague promise of technical support were sufficient to ameliorate the poor quality of the consultation and lack of clarity about the plans. We do not believe that the RFPs should be issued until all concerned parties have had an opportunity to thoroughly discuss, with the support of professional technical assistance

providers, such critical matters as the selection and orientation of the specific development sites, the environmental impacts of the loss of recreational and other open space, and the specifics of the massing and design of new buildings, the structural impact that proximate development will have on existing buildings, etc. Our community deserves a better understanding of what the RFP will include and what the selection criteria will be. We also believe that the required Environmental Impact Statement should be performed prior to not after the release of the RFP.

We would like to call to your attention our work with the Economic Development Corporation and the Department of Housing Preservation and Development on the Seward Park Urban Renewal Area as an example of how developing a cooperative working relationship between government and community can diffuse a bitter community impasse. We urge you to take the time to substantively include resident input in the design and development of any NYCHA infill development plan in order to avoid prolonged contentious and bitter battles.

Sincerely,



Gigi Li
Chairwoman

cc: Mirza Orriols, Deputy Regional Administrator HUD
Congresswoman Maloney
Congresswoman Velázquez
NYS Assembly Speaker Silver
NYS Senator Hoylman
NYS Senator Perkins
NYS Senator Serrano
NYS Senator Squadron
NYS Assemblymember Kavanagh
NYS Assemblymember O'Donnell
NYS Assemblymember Rodriguez
Manhattan Borough President Stringer
NYC Councilmember Chin
NYC Councilmember Mark-Viverito
NYC Councilmember Mendez
CB #7 Chair Diller
CB#11 Chair Washington