January 6, 2006

Mayor Michael Bloomberg
City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Call for the City to Assist New York University in Locating New Facilities Outside of Greenwich Village, the East Village, Union Square, and Noho

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

New York University has recently announced plans to build a 200,000 square foot, 26-story, 700-bed dormitory on East 12th Street, which will be the tallest building in the East Village. Within just the last few years, the University has also built a large new student center and law school building on Washington Square South, and two enormous dormitories on 14th Street. This comes after more than 20 years of consistent physical expansion by NYU in Greenwich Village, Noho, and the East Village, leading to a significant change in the character – physical and otherwise – of these neighborhoods. With this new development, and the distinct likelihood of more such development in these areas in the very near future, we are increasingly concerned that there appears to be an inexorable ‘NYU-ization’ of our neighborhoods. While we see value in the presence of institutions of higher learning within our communities, this continued expansion clearly has a huge impact upon the residential, commercial, and physical character of our communities, leading to their homogenization and to the destruction of their distinctive character that contribute significantly to the health and vitality of the city.

It is clear that something must be done to change this equation if we are to preserve the character of our neighborhoods that we value so dearly. It is also clear that NYU will continue to expand significantly in our neighborhoods if allowed, in spite of rising real estate prices and fierce competition for land use which makes such growth difficult for the University. Due to the inherent desire of an institution like NYU for proximity between facilities, it is clear that they will always seek to expand in this area as long as the possibility exists, no matter how difficult. Up to this point, the City’s policy has clearly been to allow and encourage the University to expand, citing the benefits in terms of jobs, cultural activity, and prestige. However, we believe that this expansion is having a negative impact upon our neighborhoods in the aforementioned ways that also works to the detriment of the City, and under the current conditions NYU’s desire to expand and the desire to maintain the distinctive and valuable character of our neighborhoods remain in inherent and intractable conflict.

However, there is a solution, which could ultimately benefit the City, our neighborhoods, and the University. The City must assist NYU in founding
of one or more auxiliary campuses, so that if the University is to expand, it can be done outside of our neighborhoods, rather than simply taking over larger and larger sections of them. NYU used to have a second campus in the Bronx; they closed it and sold it off in the early 1970’s, thus helping to fuel their subsequent expansion downtown. As a university composed of several smaller schools, NYU’s structure easily lends itself to one or more secondary campuses in other locations. The Village’s central location and ample subway service mean that a new campus in any number of other parts of the City could easily be connected to the current main campus by mass transit. The City is currently seeking to redevelop areas throughout the five boroughs – Downtown Brooklyn, Long Island City, the Williamsburg/Greenpoint Waterfront, Lower Manhattan and Ground Zero, Hudson Yards, and Governor’s Island are just a few examples. The location of a prestigious university could serve as a significant anchor and catalyst for the growth and economic diversification the City is seeking in redeveloping areas. By contrast, NYU’s continued expansion in the Village, already saturated with educational institutions, does not offer the same benefits. Similarly, other areas of the City where significant redevelopment efforts are underway may afford the University an opportunity to grow in a planned, rational manner, with contiguous facilities and an actual campus – a prospect not possible in the Village.

The alternative is the continued erosion of the character of our neighborhoods, their increasing transformation into the de facto campus of the largest private university in the United States, and increasingly bitter conflict between the University and the neighborhoods that surround them. It is difficult to imagine how this outcome serves anyone’s best interests, especially when there is a reasonable alternative that can address all parties’ concerns.

As community organizations representing Greenwich Village, the East Village, Union Square, and Noho, we therefore ask your assistance in making this happen – in having the City facilitate NYU establishing one or more secondary campuses, so that they do not have to continue to expand within our neighborhood. In many ways, we believe this is the only chance we have to ensure the continued survival of our neighborhoods as the thriving and diverse centers for residents, businesses, and cultural institutions they have been for generations.

We look forward to your response, which can be directed through Andrew Berman and the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman, Executive Director  Steve Herrick, Executive Director
Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation  Cooper Square Committee
Zella Jones, Chair
Noho Neighborhood Association

Anna Sawaryn, Chair
Coalition to Save the East Village

Gail Fox     Susan Kramer
Co-Chairs, Union Square Community Coalition

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Zack Winestine, Co-Chair
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Cc: City Planning Chair Amanda Burden
NYC Economic Development Corporation President Andrew Alper
Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer
Congressman Jerrold Nadler
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State Senator Martin Connor
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City Council Member Alan Gerson
City Council Member Rosie Mendez
Assemblymember Deborah Glick
Community Board #2, Manhattan
Community Board #3, Manhattan
January 6, 2006

Hon. Amanda Burden
Chair, New York City Planning Commission
22 Reade Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: Call for the City to Assist New York University in Locating New Facilities Outside of Greenwich Village, the East Village, Union Square, and NoHo

Dear Chair Burden:

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Cc: Mayor Michael Bloomberg
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City Council Speaker Christine Quinn
City Council Member Alan Gerson
City Council Member Rosie Mendez
Assemblymember Deborah Glick
Community Board #2, Manhattan
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January 6, 2006

Hon. Andrew Alper  
President, New York City Economic Development Corporation  
110 William Street  
New York, NY 10038

Re: Call for the City to Assist New York University in Locating New Facilities Outside of Greenwich Village, the East Village, Union Square, and Noho

Dear President Alper:

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City Council Member Alan Gerson  
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Assemblymember Deborah Glick  
Community Board #2, Manhattan  
Community Board #3, Manhattan
January 6, 2006

Hon. Scott Stringer
President, Borough of Manhattan
One Centre Street, 19th floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Call for the City to Assist New York University in Locating New Facilities Outside of Greenwich Village, the East Village, Union Square, and NoHo

Dear Borough President Stringer:

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City Council Member Alan Gerson
City Council Member Rosie Mendez
Assemblymember Deborah Glick
Community Board #2, Manhattan
Community Board #3, Manhattan
January 6, 2006

Hon. Jerrold Nadler
Congressman, 8th C.D.
201 Varick Street, #669
New York, NY 10014

Re: Call for the City to Assist New York University in Locating New Facilities Outside of Greenwich Village, the East Village, Union Square, and Noho

Dear Congressman Nadler:

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Community Board #2, Manhattan  
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January 6, 2006

Hon. Carolyn Maloney
Congresswoman, 14th C.D.
1651 3rd Avenue, Suite 311
New York, NY 10128-3679

Re: Call for the City to Assist New York University in Locating New Facilities Outside of Greenwich Village, the East Village, Union Square, and Noho

Dear Congresswoman Maloney:

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January 6, 2006

Hon. Nydia Velazquez
Congresswoman, 12th C.D.
173 Avenue B
New York, NY 10009

Re: Call for the City to Assist New York University in Locating New Facilities Outside of Greenwich Village, the East Village, Union Square, and NoHo

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The alternative is the continued erosion of the character of our neighborhoods, their increasing transformation into the de facto campus of the largest private university in the United States, and increasingly bitter conflict between the University and the neighborhoods that surround them. It is difficult to imagine how this outcome serves anyone’s best interests, especially when there is a reasonable alternative that can address all parties’ concerns.

As community organizations representing Greenwich Village, the East Village, Union Square, and Noho, we therefore ask your assistance in making this happen – in having the City facilitate NYU establishing one or more secondary campuses, so that they do not have to continue to expand within our neighborhood. In many ways, we believe this is the only chance we have to ensure the continued survival of our neighborhoods as the thriving and diverse centers for residents, businesses, and cultural institutions they have been for generations.

We look forward to your response, which can be directed through Andrew Berman and the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman, Executive Director
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Steve Herrick, Executive Director
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Gail Fox    Susan Kramer
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Zack Winestine, Co-Chair
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Cc: Mayor Michael Bloomberg
   City Planning Chair Amanda Burden
   NYC Economic Development Corporation President Andrew Alper
   Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer
   Congressman Jerrold Nadler
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   State Senator Tom Duane
   State Senator Martin Connor
   City Council Speaker Christine Quinn
   City Council Member Alan Gerson
   City Council Member Rosie Mendez
   Assemblymember Deborah Glick
   Community Board #2, Manhattan
   Community Board #3, Manhattan
January 6, 2006

Hon. Thomas K. Duane
State Senator, 29th S.D.
322 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1700
New York, NY 10001

Re: Call for the City to Assist New York University in Locating New Facilities Outside of Greenwich Village, the East Village, Union Square, and Noho

Dear State Senator Duane:

New York University has recently announced plans to build a 200,000 square foot, 26-story, 700-bed dormitory on East 12th Street, which will be the tallest building in the East Village. Within just the last few years, the University has also built a large new student center and law school building on Washington Square South, and two enormous dormitories on 14th Street. This comes after more than 20 years of consistent physical expansion by NYU in Greenwich Village, Noho, and the East Village, leading to a significant change in the character – physical and otherwise – of these neighborhoods. With this new development, and the distinct likelihood of more such development in these areas in the very near future, we are increasingly concerned that there appears to be an inexorable ‘NYU-ization’ of our neighborhoods. While we see value in the presence of institutions of higher learning within our communities, this continued expansion clearly has a huge impact upon the residential, commercial, and physical character of our communities, leading to their homogenization and to the destruction of their distinctive character that contribute significantly to the health and vitality of the city.

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State Senator Martin Connor
City Council Speaker Christine Quinn
City Council Member Alan Gerson
City Council Member Rosie Mendez
Assemblymember Deborah Glick
Community Board #2, Manhattan
Community Board #3, Manhattan
January 6, 2006

Hon. Martin Connor
State Senator, 25th S.D.
250 Broadway, Suite 2011
New York, NY  10007

Re:  Call for the City to Assist New York University in Locating New Facilities Outside of Greenwich Village, the East Village, Union Square, and Noho

Dear State Senator Connor:

New York University has recently announced plans to build a 200,000 square foot, 26-story, 700-bed dormitory on East 12th Street, which will be the tallest building in the East Village. Within just the last few years, the University has also built a large new student center and law school building on Washington Square South, and two enormous dormitories on 14th Street. This comes after more than 20 years of consistent physical expansion by NYU in Greenwich Village, Noho, and the East Village, leading to a significant change in the character – physical and otherwise – of these neighborhoods. With this new development, and the distinct likelihood of more such development in these areas in the very near future, we are increasingly concerned that there appears to be an inexorable ‘NYU-ization’ of our neighborhoods. While we see value in the presence of institutions of higher learning within our communities, this continued expansion clearly has a huge impact upon the residential, commercial, and physical character of our communities, leading to their homogenization and to the destruction of their distinctive character that contribute significantly to the health and vitality of the city.

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   Assemblymember Deborah Glick
   Community Board #2, Manhattan
   Community Board #3, Manhattan
January 6, 2006

Hon. Christine Quinn  
Speaker, New York City Council.  
224 West 30th Street, Suite 1206  
New York, NY 10001

Re: Call for the City to Assist New York University in Locating New Facilities Outside of Greenwich Village, the East Village, Union Square, and Noho

Dear Speaker Quinn:

New York University has recently announced plans to build a 200,000 square foot, 26-story, 700-bed dormitory on East 12th Street, which will be the tallest building in the East Village. Within just the last few years, the University has also built a large new student center and law school building on Washington Square South, and two enormous dormitories on 14th Street. This comes after more than 20 years of consistent physical expansion by NYU in Greenwich Village, NoHo, and the East Village, leading to a significant change in the character—physical and otherwise—of these neighborhoods. With this new development, and the distinct likelihood of more such development in these areas in the very near future, we are increasingly concerned that there appears to be an inexorable ‘NYU-ization’ of our neighborhoods. While we see value in the presence of institutions of higher learning within our communities, this continued expansion clearly has a huge impact upon the residential, commercial, and physical character of our communities, leading to their homogenization and to the destruction of their distinctive character that contribute significantly to the health and vitality of the city.

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As community organizations representing Greenwich Village, the East Village, Union Square, and NoHo, we therefore ask your assistance in making this happen – in having the City facilitate NYU establishing one or more secondary campuses, so that they do not have to continue to expand within our neighborhood. In many ways, we believe this is the only chance we have to ensure the continued survival of our neighborhoods as the thriving and diverse centers for residents, businesses, and cultural institutions they have been for generations.

We look forward to your response, which can be directed through Andrew Berman and the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation.

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Cc: Mayor Michael Bloomberg  
City Planning Chair Amanda Burden  
NYC Economic Development Corporation President Andrew Alper  
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State Senator Thomas K. Duane  
State Senator Martin Connor  
City Council Member Alan Gerson  
City Council Member Rosie Mendez  
Assemblymember Deborah Glick  
Community Board #2, Manhattan  
Community Board #3, Manhattan
January 6, 2006

Hon. Alan Gerson
City Council Member, 1st District
51 Chambers Street, rm. 429
New York, NY 10007

Re: Call for the City to Assist New York University in Locating New Facilities Outside of Greenwich Village, the East Village, Union Square, and Noho

Dear Council Member Gerson:

New York University has recently announced plans to build a 200,000 square foot, 26-story, 700-bed dormitory on East 12th Street, which will be the tallest building in the East Village. Within just the last few years, the University has also built a large new student center and law school building on Washington Square South, and two enormous dormitories on 14th Street. This comes after more than 20 years of consistent physical expansion by NYU in Greenwich Village, Noho, and the East Village, leading to a significant change in the character – physical and otherwise – of these neighborhoods. With this new development, and the distinct likelihood of more such development in these areas in the very near future, we are increasingly concerned that there appears to be an inexorable ‘NYU-ization’ of our neighborhoods. While we see value in the presence of institutions of higher learning within our communities, this continued expansion clearly has a huge impact upon the residential, commercial, and physical character of our communities, leading to their homogenization and to the destruction of their distinctive character that contribute significantly to the health and vitality of the city.

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Assemblymember Deborah Glick
Community Board #2, Manhattan
Community Board #3, Manhattan
January 6, 2006

Hon. Rosie Mendez
City Council Member, 2nd District
237 1st Avenue
New York, NY 10003

Re: Call for the City to Assist New York University in Locating New Facilities Outside of Greenwich Village, the East Village, Union Square, and Noho

Dear Council Member Mendez:

New York University has recently announced plans to build a 200,000 square foot, 26-story, 700-bed dormitory on East 12th Street, which will be the tallest building in the East Village. Within just the last few years, the University has also built a large new student center and law school building on Washington Square South, and two enormous dormitories on 14th Street. This comes after more than 20 years of consistent physical expansion by NYU in Greenwich Village, NoHo, and the East Village, leading to a significant change in the character – physical and otherwise – of these neighborhoods. With this new development, and the distinct likelihood of more such development in these areas in the very near future, we are increasingly concerned that there appears to be an inexorable ‘NYU-ization’ of our neighborhoods. While we see value in the presence of institutions of higher learning within our communities, this continued expansion clearly has a huge impact upon the residential, commercial, and physical character of our communities, leading to their homogenization and to the destruction of their distinctive character that contribute significantly to the health and vitality of the city.

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City Council Speaker Christine Quinn
City Council Member Alan Gerson
Assemblymember Deborah Glick
Community Board #2, Manhattan
Community Board #3, Manhattan
January 6, 2006

Hon. Deborah J. Glick
Assemblymember, 66th A.D.
853 Broadway, rm. 2120
New York, NY 10003

Re: Call for the City to Assist New York University in Locating New Facilities Outside of Greenwich Village, the East Village, Union Square, and NoHo

Dear Assemblymember Glick:

New York University has recently announced plans to build a 200,000 square foot, 26-story, 700-bed dormitory on East 12th Street, which will be the tallest building in the East Village. Within just the last few years, the University has also built a large new student center and law school building on Washington Square South, and two enormous dormitories on 14th Street. This comes after more than 20 years of consistent physical expansion by NYU in Greenwich Village, NoHo, and the East Village, leading to a significant change in the character—physical and otherwise—of these neighborhoods. With this new development, and the distinct likelihood of more such development in these areas in the very near future, we are increasingly concerned that there appears to be an inexorable ‘NYU-ization’ of our neighborhoods. While we see value in the presence of institutions of higher learning within our communities, this continued expansion clearly has a huge impact upon the residential, commercial, and physical character of our communities, leading to their homogenization and to the destruction of their distinctive character that contribute significantly to the health and vitality of the city.

It is clear that something must be done to change this equation if we are to preserve the character of our neighborhoods that we value so dearly. It is also clear that NYU will continue to expand significantly in our neighborhoods if allowed, in spite of rising real estate prices and fierce competition for land use which makes such growth difficult for the University. Due to the inherent desire of an institution like NYU for proximity between facilities, it is clear that they will always seek to expand in this area as long as the possibility exists, no matter how difficult. Up to this point, the City’s policy has clearly been to allow and encourage the University to expand, citing the benefits in terms of jobs, cultural activity, and prestige. However, we believe that this expansion is having a negative impact upon our neighborhoods in the aforementioned ways that also works to the detriment of the City, and under the current conditions NYU’s desire to expand and the desire to maintain the distinctive and valuable character of our neighborhoods remain in inherent and intractable conflict.

However, there is a solution, which could ultimately benefit the City, our neighborhoods, and the University. The City must assist NYU in founding of one or more auxiliary campuses, so that if the University is to expand, it can be
done outside of our neighborhoods, rather than simply taking over larger and larger sections of them. NYU used to have a second campus in the Bronx; they closed it and sold it off in the early 1970’s, thus helping to fuel their subsequent expansion downtown. As a university composed of several smaller schools, NYU’s structure easily lends itself to one or more secondary campuses in other locations. The Village’s central location and ample subway service mean that a new campus in any number of other parts of the City could easily be connected to the current main campus by mass transit. The City is currently seeking to redevelop areas throughout the five boroughs – Downtown Brooklyn, Long Island City, the Williamsburg/Greenpoint Waterfront, Lower Manhattan and Ground Zero, Hudson Yards, and Governor’s Island are just a few examples. The location of a prestigious university could serve as a significant anchor and catalyst for the growth and economic diversification the City is seeking in redeveloping areas. By contrast, NYU’s continued expansion in the Village, already saturated with educational institutions, does not offer the same benefits. Similarly, other areas of the City where significant redevelopment efforts are underway may afford the University an opportunity to grow in a planned, rational manner, with contiguous facilities and an actual campus – a prospect not possible in the Village.

The alternative is the continued erosion of the character of our neighborhoods, their increasing transformation into the de facto campus of the largest private university in the United States, and increasingly bitter conflict between the University and the neighborhoods that surround them. It is difficult to imagine how this outcome serves anyone’s best interests, especially when there is a reasonable alternative that can address all parties’ concerns.

As community organizations representing Greenwich Village, the East Village, Union Square, and NoHo, we therefore ask your assistance in making this happen – in having the City facilitate NYU establishing one or more secondary campuses, so that they do not have to continue to expand within our neighborhood. In many ways, we believe this is the only chance we have to ensure the continued survival of our neighborhoods as the thriving and diverse centers for residents, businesses, and cultural institutions they have been for generations.

We look forward to your response, which can be directed through Andrew Berman and the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman, Executive Director
Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation

Steve Herrick, Executive Director
Cooper Square Committee
Zella Jones, Chair
Noho Neighborhood Association

Anna Sawaryn, Chair
Coalition to Save the East Village

Gail Fox    Susan Kramer
Co-Chairs, Union Square Community Coalition

Elizabeth Langwith    Tony McAndrew
Co-Chairs, St. Ann’s Committee

Zack Winestine, Co-Chair
Greenwich Village Community Task Force

Cc: Mayor Michael Bloomberg
   City Planning Chair Amanda Burden
   NYC Economic Development Corporation President Andrew Alper
   Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer
   Congressman Jerrold Nadler
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   Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez
   State Senator Thomas K. Duane
   State Senator Martin Connor
   City Council Speaker Christine Quinn
   City Council Member Alan Gerson
   City Council Member Rosie Mendez
   Community Board #2, Manhattan
   Community Board #3, Manhattan
January 6, 2006

Community Board #2, Manhattan
3 Washington Square Village
rm. 1-A
New York, NY 10012

Re: Call for the City to Assist New York University in Locating New Facilities Outside of Greenwich Village, the East Village, Union Square, and Noho

Dear Community Board #2:

New York University has recently announced plans to build a 200,000 square foot, 26-story, 700-bed dormitory on East 12th Street, which will be the tallest building in the East Village. Within just the last few years, the University has also built a large new student center and law school building on Washington Square South, and two enormous dormitories on 14th Street. This comes after more than 20 years of consistent physical expansion by NYU in Greenwich Village, Noho, and the East Village, leading to a significant change in the character—physical and otherwise—of these neighborhoods. With this new development, and the distinct likelihood of more such development in these areas in the very near future, we are increasingly concerned that there appears to be an inexorable ‘NYU-ization’ of our neighborhoods. While we see value in the presence of institutions of higher learning within our communities, this continued expansion clearly has a huge impact upon the residential, commercial, and physical character of our communities, leading to their homogenization and to the destruction of their distinctive character that contribute significantly to the health and vitality of the city.

It is clear that something must be done to change this equation if we are to preserve the character of our neighborhoods that we value so dearly. It is also clear that NYU will continue to expand significantly in our neighborhoods if allowed, in spite of rising real estate prices and fierce competition for land use which makes such growth difficult for the University. Due to the inherent desire of an institution like NYU for proximity between facilities, it is clear that they will always seek to expand in this area as long as the possibility exists, no matter how difficult. Up to this point, the City’s policy has clearly been to allow and encourage the University to expand, citing the benefits in terms of jobs, cultural activity, and prestige. However, we believe that this expansion is having a negative impact upon our neighborhoods in the aforementioned ways that also works to the detriment of the City, and under the current conditions NYU’s desire to expand and the desire to maintain the distinctive and valuable character of our neighborhoods remain in inherent and intractable conflict.

However, there is a solution, which could ultimately benefit the City, our neighborhoods, and the University. The City must assist NYU in founding of one or more auxiliary campuses, so that if the University is to expand, it can be done outside of our neighborhoods, rather than simply taking over larger and
larger sections of them. NYU used to have a second campus in the Bronx; they closed it and sold it off in the early 1970’s, thus helping to fuel their subsequent expansion downtown. As a university composed of several smaller schools, NYU’s structure easily lends itself to one or more secondary campuses in other locations. The Village’s central location and ample subway service mean that a new campus in any number of other parts of the City could easily be connected to the current main campus by mass transit. The City is currently seeking to redevelop areas throughout the five boroughs – Downtown Brooklyn, Long Island City, the Williamsburg/Greenpoint Waterfront, Lower Manhattan and Ground Zero, Hudson Yards, and Governor’s Island are just a few examples. The location of a prestigious university could serve as a significant anchor and catalyst for the growth and economic diversification the City is seeking in redeveloping areas. By contrast, NYU’s continued expansion in the Village, already saturated with educational institutions, does not offer the same benefits. Similarly, other areas of the City where significant redevelopment efforts are underway may afford the University an opportunity to grow in a planned, rational manner, with contiguous facilities and an actual campus – a prospect not possible in the Village.

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As community organizations representing Greenwich Village, the East Village, Union Square, and Noho, we therefore ask your assistance in making this happen – in having the City facilitate NYU establishing one or more secondary campuses, so that they do not have to continue to expand within our neighborhood. In many ways, we believe this is the only chance we have to ensure the continued survival of our neighborhoods as the thriving and diverse centers for residents, businesses, and cultural institutions they have been for generations.

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   City Council Member Alan Gerson
   City Council Member Rosie Mendez
   Assemblymember Deborah Glick
   Community Board #3, Manhattan
January 6, 2006

Community Board #3, Manhattan
59 East 4th Street
New York, NY 10003

Re: Call for the City to Assist New York University in Locating New Facilities Outside of Greenwich Village, the East Village, Union Square, and NoHo

Dear Community Board #3:

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