

Community Action Alliance on NYU 2031

c/o 232 East 11th Street, New York, NY 10003

September 1, 2010

Borough President Stringer
City Council Speaker Christine Quinn
City Council Member Margaret Chin
State Senator Tom Duane
State Assemblymember Deborah Glick
Community Board 2 Chair Jo Hamilton
via fax and e-mail

Dear Borough President Stringer, Speaker Quinn, Councilmember Chin, State Senator Duane, Assemblymember Glick, and Chair Hamilton:

We write to you as a coalition of community groups concerned about the future of our neighborhood in light of NYU's massive proposed expansion plan. Many of us have worked for years on issues surrounding NYU's growth, and many of us spent several years as members of the Community Task Force on NYU Development which has since been suspended.

We believe that NYU's 2031 Expansion Plan would have a dramatically negative impact upon our neighborhood, and that there are reasonable and viable alternatives to NYU's plans. As we will soon enter the public review and approval process for NYU's plans, which you will all either vote or comment upon, we strongly urge you to adopt the recommendations of the Community Task Force on NYU Development which called for the following:

- **NYU must look first to alternative locations such as the Financial District and stalled building sites throughout the city to accommodate its planned growth, and must justify why any new development cannot go there rather than further oversaturating the Village, East Village, NoHo, and surrounding area.**
- **Anything remotely like 3 million square feet of space in the core and surrounding neighborhood is too much -- if NYU is to grow, better utilization of existing space and re-use of existing buildings is preferable to new construction**
- **Loss of open space or parks for new NYU development is not acceptable, and NYU should not acquire or build upon city-owned land or public open space (this includes public land on LaGuardia Place and Mercer, Bleecker, and West 3rd Streets)**
- **Replacement of low-scale buildings with exponentially larger ones is not acceptable**
- **Any growth by NYU which would introduce more school age children must coincide with an increase in the number of public schools seats to accommodate them**

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15 Washington Place Tenants' Committee
200 Mercer Street Board
505 LaGuardia Place Board
77 Bleecker Street Board
88 Bleecker Street Board
Bleecker Area Merchants and Residents Association
Central Village Block Association
Downtown Independent Democrats
East 10th Street Block Association
East Square Neighbors
Friends of NoHo
Greenwich Village Block Associations
Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation
Grove Street Block Association
Horatio Street Association
LaGuardia Corner Gardens
Mercer-Houston Dog Run Association
Mercer Street Block Association
Mulry Angle/West 11th Street Block Association
Perry Street Block Association
Public School Parents Advocacy Committee
Superblocks Coalition
Village Reform Democratic Club
Village Residents Alliance
Washington Place Block Association
Washington Square Village Tenants Association
West 10th Street Block Association
West 12th Street Block Association
West 13th Street Block Association

Some elements of the NYU 2031 plan were not yet public when the Task Force issued its recommendations in March. As the fuller breadth of NYU's plan has since been revealed, we also strongly urge you to adopt the following positions regarding the NYU 2031 plan which are consistent with the spirit of the Task Force's recommendations:

- **No change of zoning in residential areas to commercial zoning**
- **No change in zoning to remove or diminish requirements for maintaining open space**
- **No lifting of deed restrictions on formerly-publicly-owned land to allow construction before 2021**

NYU's 2031 Expansion Plan would irreversibly change the character of our neighborhood, and cannot move ahead as planned without your support and approval. We call upon you, our elected officials and community representatives, to work with us and neighbors and residents of this community to ensure that the university's plans do not inalterably destroy the quality of our community.

Sincerely,

Constance Dondore

Constance Dondore, Coordinator
15 Washington Place Tenants' Committee

Andrew Amer

Andrew Amer
200 Mercer Street Board

Patricia Albin

Patricia Albin, President
505 LaGuardia Place Board

Terri Cude

Terri Cude
77 Bleecker Street Board

Lee Schwartz

Lee Schwartz
88 Bleecker Street Board

Judith Callet

Judith Callet, Resident Chair
Bleecker Area Merchants and Residents Association

David Handler

David Handler, Merchants Chair
Bleecker Area Merchants and Residents Association

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Dorothy Green

Dorothy Green, President
Central Village Block Association

Jim Stratton

Jim Stratton, Vice-President
Downtown Independent Democrats

Sugar Barry

Sugar Barry, Co-President
East 10th Street Block Association

Mary Johnson

Mary Johnson, Coordinator
East Square Neighbors

Jeanne Wilcke

Jeanne Wilcke, Chair
Friends of NoHo

Martin Tessler

Martin Tessler
Greenwich Village Block Associations

Andrew Berman

Andrew Berman, Executive Director
Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation

Margery Evans Reifler

Margery Evans Reifler, Treasurer
Grove Street Block Association

Marjorie Colt

Marjorie Colt, Vice President
Horatio Street Association

Ellen Horan

Ellen Horan
LaGuardia Corner Gardens

Beth Gottlieb

Beth Gottlieb, President
Mercer-Houston Dog Run Association

Elaine Hudson

Elaine Hudson, President
Mercer Street Block Association

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Cynthia Crane

Cynthia Crane, Chair
Mulry Angle/West 11th Street Block Association

Gerald Banu

Gerald Banu, President
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Ann Kjellberg

Ann Kjellberg
Public School Parent Advocacy Committee

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Superblocks Coalition

Susan Kramer

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Village Residents Alliance

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Gary Tomei

Gary Tomei, President
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Luke Henry

Luke Henry, President
Village Reform Democratic Club