



Greenwich  
Village  
Society for  
Historic  
Preservation

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**STATEMENT OF THE GREENWICH VILLAGE SOCIETY**  
**FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**  
**REGARDING THE RELEASE OF THE**  
**COMMUNITY TASK FORCE ON NYU DEVELOPMENT**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NYU 2031 PLAN**  
**March 25, 2010**

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHP) is proud to have worked with fellow community groups over the last three years to formulate these recommendations regarding NYU's massive proposed expansion plans. In 2003 GVSHP issued its "[After the Kimmel Center](#)" report (referring to NYU's then-recently-completed massive new student center on Washington Square), and [in 2006 organized a community coalition around NYU development](#), both of which called for ending NYU's unabated expansion in our neighborhoods and to press the university to consider satellite campuses as an alternative to accommodate its future growth.

[The Community Task Force Report](#) contains many of the same recommendations made in 2003 and 2006, along with many additional ones. Among the recommendations of the Task Force, which GVSHP worked hard to include, are:

- NYU should **FIRST** seek to locate new facilities in satellite locations
- NYU must demonstrate why new facilities need to be located in the already-oversaturated Village core
- NYU should respect and maintain the low-scale, moderate density, historic character of our neighborhoods
- Anything even remotely like the 3 million square feet of space NYU has indicated they would like to add to the Village is completely unacceptable
- Plans NYU has previously shown to shoehorn massive new development into the protected open space on the "superblocks" located south of Washington Square Park is totally unacceptable
- NYU should support and respect the South Village Historic District as proposed by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation and nearly-universally supported in the community; the university should refraining from demolition, new construction and alterations until the area is designated and subject to the landmarks regulation process
- NYU must consider additional areas for potential satellite locations, including the Financial District and Long Island City, and should examine the scores of stalled and abandoned construction projects throughout the city to potentially address some of their facility needs while also eliminating these blights from neighborhoods

GVSHP will continue to work with the Task Force on refining these recommendations, including areas still lacking such as defining when it is appropriate for NYU to lobby community board members privately on development issues they will vote on prior to public presentations of their plans.

“With these Task Force recommendations the community has come together to make a strong statement to NYU that the continued overdevelopment of our neighborhood and continued broken commitments are unacceptable, and that the university must respect the character of our neighborhoods in their planning,” said GVSHP Executive Director Andrew Berman.

“While we have not yet seen NYU’s final 2031 plan, to be released in April, we are disturbed by press reports that the university is still considering adding close to 3 million square feet of space in our neighborhood, or the equivalent of four and a half Javits Convention Centers, and that the locations they are considering for satellite campuses are so limited, including Governor’s Island, which is a long-shot at best for NYU to acquire. We intend to hold NYU accountable to the recommendations in this Task Force report. Given that many of the developments NYU is seeking require approvals by elected and city officials to lift existing zoning protections, we expect there will be vigorous community opposition to plans which violate the letter and spirit of this report,” added Berman.

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