

SAVE CHELSEA MARKET COALITION

Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation • Save Chelsea • Historic Districts Council • Tenants Political Action Committee
Council of Chelsea Block Associations • Chelsea Reform Democratic Club • Chelsea Village Partnership • Greenwich Village Community Task Force
London Terrace Tenants Association • 100 West 16th Street Block Association • Chelsea Coalition on Housing • Lower Chelsea Alliance

October 8, 2012

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

Dear Speaker Quinn:

We strongly urge you to vote no on the proposed upzoning of Chelsea Market to allow two large new towers to be built atop the historic complex. We feel that no changes to the plan, and no additional 'givebacks' as part of the deal, could justify the zoning change being sought.

There are many reasons not to approve this zoning change. This is a historic complex, listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, which would be marred by these huge, unnecessary additions on top. This area of Chelsea and the Meatpacking District are already overwhelmed with traffic and congestion, and the addition of hundreds of thousands of square feet of additional space would only exacerbate this problem. The Chelsea Market complex is already built to a sufficient density and is quite profitable as is; recent nearby rezonings have allowed a huge amount of new development in the area and will allow the addition of millions more square feet in the years to come. Adding to that ever-increasing density would only have a negative impact upon the increasingly-fragile, low-scale residential character of Chelsea.

Finally, we take strong issue with the proposal to allow the upzoning if financial support for a stalled affordable housing development at the Fulton Houses is included. The affordable housing development in question is one which was promised to the community as a condition of the West Chelsea Rezoning, approved by the City Council in 2005. Though that affordable housing was promised, it has not materialized because the City has failed to provide the funding necessary for it to move ahead. To make the Chelsea community pay for this promised amenity a second time, by giving away more of our light and air and adding to our traffic and congestion, would be outrageous. This community wants and is owed truly affordable housing, but we should not have to pay twice for it.

Ultimately, the proposed upzoning of Chelsea Market would serve primarily to increase the profits of Jamestown Properties. There is no justification for changing the zoning for this area to do that, and thus we urge you in the strongest of terms to vote no on this application.

Sincerely,



Andrew Berman, Executive Director
Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation



Lesley Doyel and Justin Hoy, Co-Presidents
Save Chelsea



Simeon Bankoff, Executive Director
Historic Districts Council



Michael McKee, Treasurer
Tenants Political Action Committee



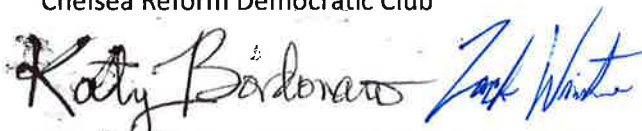
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Cc: Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer
State Senator Tom Duane
State Assemblymember Deborah Glick
State Assemblymember Richard Gottfried