



Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation

252 East 11th Street
New York, New York 10005

(212) 475-0585
fax: (212) 475-0583
www.gvshp.org

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March 13, 2012

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

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

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

Hon. Margaret Chin, Councilmember, 1st District
165 Park Row, Suite 11
New York, NY 10011

Re: Timing of City Council Hearings for NYU "Core" ULURP Applications

Dear Borough President Stringer, Chair Burden, Speaker Quinn, and Councilmember Chin,

We write to urge you to ensure that the City Council public hearings on the above-referenced applications do not take place during the summer months when many interested parties, including many NYU faculty and students, will be away and unable to participate in these public hearings.

Because Community Board #2 did not issue its formal recommendations regarding the above-referenced applications until this week, the thirty-day review period for the Borough President now ends in mid-April, potentially leaving the sixty-day review period for the City Planning Commission to end in mid-June. **This would leave the fifty-day review period for the City Council to run from mid-June to July 31st. This could easily result in, or even (depending upon the City Council calendar) require, City Council hearings on this matter taking place at the end of June or in July.**

This would severely hamper the public's ability to participate in the critically important public hearings at the City Council, where the final decision about these applications will likely be made. As you know, participation in public hearings held on this issue thus far has demonstrated an overwhelming sentiment *against* approval of these applications. Thus holding the City Council public hearings during a time period when the broadest possible cross-section of the public was not able to participate would significantly favor the applicant, NYU.

This should not be allowed to happen. Because the Borough President and City Planning Commission have discretion as to how much of their review period they use, and because the City Council can plan its schedule in advance, this scenario is avoidable if action is taken now.

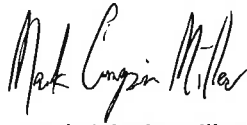
Thus we strongly urge the Borough President, the City Planning Commission, and the City Council to coordinate your schedules and review periods to ensure that the application reaches the City Council in time to allow hearings to take place well before late June, when many interested parties, including NYU faculty and students, may be unable to participate. Barring that possibility, I urge you to find a way to schedule the City Council hearings so they may take place after Labor Day, in the fall, when fuller public participation can be ensured.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Andrew Berman
Executive Director
Greenwich Village Society
for Historic Preservation



Mark Crispin Miller
NYU Faculty Against
the Sexton Plan
(NYU FASP)



Scott M. Sommer
New York Sub-Regional Director
UAW Region 9A (GSOC/UAW,
NYU Graduate Employee Union)