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COMMUNITY BOARD No. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE

NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

www.cb2manhattan.org

P: 212-979-2272 F: 212-254-5102 E: info@cb2manhattan.org

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July 15, 2010

John Sexton
President, New York University
Bobst Library
70 Washington Square South
New York, New York 10012

Dear President Sexton,

Thank you for your response to the recommendations of the Community Task Force on NYU Development regarding the University's 2031 Strategic Plan. The Task Force has worked long and hard for over three years to develop responsible community input in order to help guide the growth that you state is needed to maintain NYU's status as a premiere academic institution.

We appreciate the time and effort you have dedicated to engaging in a meaningful conversation with the community. However, to date, the University's response has fallen short. There remain many unanswered questions to the concerns and recommendations outlined by the Task Force and broader community. As your team heard from the hundreds of individuals that attended the April 19th and June 21st CB 2 Institutions Committee meetings, this community has not accepted the plan as a *fait accompli*.

Now that the University is coming to our Board with specific applications for expansion into our community and we are beginning the formal land use review process, we require answers.

The first Planning Principle adopted by the University calls for the establishment of criteria for development within the blocks around Washington Square Park, and you clearly state in your response to the recommendations that this is a priority, but we have yet to see a breakdown of the uses and square footage you are proposing, and the University has not yet justified why they cannot be moved elsewhere.

Similarly, the board has not yet had a full explanation of the many zoning changes you will be seeking as a part of ULURP. We are especially concerned about your request for the conveyance of the public open space/parks and gardens along Mercer and LaGuardia that are owned by the Department of Transportation, the status of the deed restrictions for the

superblocks, and the phasing and timing of all the construction you propose, especially as it relates to the potential dislocation of long term tenants in your properties.

Additionally, questions remain about the University's commitment to provide space for a school. This is a priority for the community, and we want details about the timing and potential location.

These are only a few of many significant issues that need to be addressed and thoroughly discussed.

We request the University's participation in a series of public meetings over the coming months, beginning on August 9th at 6:30 pm, P.S. 41, 116 West 11th Street, with a discussion of the exact proposals and justifications for each project in the superblocks and the blocks east of Washington Square Park. This is the time to get specific and detailed, and we look forward to getting real answers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jo Hamilton". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light blue rectangular background.

Jo Hamilton, Chair
Community Board 2, Manhattan

Cc: Rep. Jerrold L. Nadler
Speaker Christine C. Quinn
Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer
NYS Senator Thomas K. Duane
NYS Assembly Member Deborah J. Glick
NYC Council Member Margaret Chin
Community Task Force on NYU Development