

March 2, 2006

Honorable Michael Bloomberg
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

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

Honorable Daniel L. Doctoroff
Deputy Mayor for Finance and
Economic Development
Office of the Mayor, City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Andrew Alper, President
NYC Economic Development Corp.
110 William Street, 6th Floor
New York, New York 10038

Dear Messrs. And Mdme.

At its Full Board meeting on February 16, 2006, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB#2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

Proposal by The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation for the City to assist New York University in locating new facilities by founding one or more auxiliary campuses outside of Greenwich Village, the East Village, Union Square, SoHo, and NoHo.

WHEREAS: NYU is a long-standing and essential member of this community, whose presence also contributes greatly to the economic and cultural health and vitality of our communities, And,

WHEREAS: New York University has stated that they are in the process of preparing a Long Term Plan that will be presented to the community and the Community Board, And,

WHEREAS: NYU has stated that they will invite the Community Board to recommend community members to serve on their planning committee, And

WHEREAS: New York University is the largest private university in the country, made up of 14 schools, colleges, and divisions, occupying all or part of approximately 100 buildings in and around Washington Square and Union Square; And,

WHEREAS: New York University has also built a dozen high-rise buildings in this area in the last 20 years, most larger than zoning for the area normally allows due to utilization of the community facilities bulk bonus, And,

WHEREAS: New York University is currently planning a 13th new high-rise in the area, a 26-story dormitory just outside of CB#2, Man.'s boundaries which will be the tallest building in the East Village, And

WHEREAS: New York University has additionally occupied at least 25 existing buildings in this area since the early 1980's, And,

WHEREAS: New York University's growth continues, and will likely continue in the years to come, And,

WHEREAS: The communities represented by Community Board #2 have expressed a great deal of concern over the years about NYU's expansion and the change in the essential character, physical and otherwise, which it has upon the neighborhood, And,

WHEREAS: it is our understanding that the City of New York finds NYU's continued growth desirable, due to the jobs, economic development, cultural activity, and skilled professionals it draws to our City, And,

WHEREAS: NYU understandably needs and desires to grow in such a manner that its facilities are located in close proximity to one another, And,

WHEREAS: There is, however, a real concern that with NYU's continuing expansion the University will cease to be an important "ingredient" in the make-up of our neighborhoods but become the dominant and overwhelming presence, And,

WHEREAS: It is desirable not only to our neighborhoods but to the City as a whole that Greenwich Village, the East Village, and Noho maintain their world-famous character and diversity, of which NYU and our other institutions of higher learning are an important component but should not be the defining element, And,

WHEREAS: the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation is urging the City and NYU to work together to help NYU establish one or more satellite campuses outside of our neighborhoods, allowing future growth by NYU to be channeled outside of our neighborhood, And,

WHEREAS: This proposal is supported by the Noho Neighborhood Association, the Soho Alliance, the Greenwich Village Community Task Force, the Cooper Square Committee, the Coalition to Save the East Village, the Union Square Community Coalition, and the St. Ann's Committee, among others, And,

WHEREAS: NYU's structure of multiple schools under the umbrella of the University would seem to lend itself to such an arrangement, as NYU used to have a second campus in the Bronx and currently does have a second campus for its medical school in East Midtown, And,

WHEREAS: Such an arrangement would allow NYU to continue to grow as needed while eliminating or reducing the problem of their growth overwhelming our neighborhoods, And,

WHEREAS: The City is encouraging redevelopment of various parts of the city right now, and many of those communities might welcome a satellite campus of a prestigious university like NYU as a catalyst or anchor for economic or cultural development, And,

WHEREAS: Such an arrangement would likely ultimately benefit NYU as well, by potentially allowing the long-range planning and campus-like environment that they cannot attain at their current location, while also avoiding the high land prices and lack of available sites they face in our neighborhoods, And,

WHEREAS: With virtually every subway line in the City coming through our neighborhoods, it would be very easy to establish a satellite campus for NYU which is easily connected by mass transit to their main campus,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That CB#2, Man. urges our elected officials, the Mayor, relevant city agencies such as the Department of City Planning and the Economic Development Corporation, and NYU to work together to explore such a possibility and to make it a reality, And,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That CB#2, Man. thanks NYU for appearing at the CB#2 Zoning Committee and restates its invitation for NYU to come to the Community Board at any time to discuss its land use issues, And,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That CB#2, Man. accepts invitation from NYU to recommend community members to serve on their planning committee, And,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that CB#2, Man. offers its forum for NYU to present its Long Term Plan as soon as it is ready, And,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that CB#2, Man. recognizes that such a plan would take a great deal of time and planning to accomplish, but also recognizes the harm in continuing the status quo, and therefore urges the involved parties to move with great haste to begin the process so that our communities, the City, and NYU may benefit as soon as possible from implementation of this plan.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,

Maria Passannante Derr, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

David Reck, Chair
Zoning and Housing Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

MPD/fa

cc: Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman – via fax
Hon. Thomas Duane, NY State Senator – via fax
Hon. Deborah Glick, Assembly Member– via fax
Hon. Scott Stringer, Man. Borough President-via fax
Hon. Alan Jay Gerson, Council Member– via fax
Hon. Rosie Mendez, Council Member
Hon. Christine Quinn, Council Speaker– via fax
Shaan Khan, Community Board Liaison, Man. Borough President-via fax
Jonathan Greenspun, Commissioner, CAU– via fax
Andrew Berman, Executive Director, GVSHP
Ms. Lynne Brown, Vice President, Administration, New York University
John Saxon, President, New York University
Alicia Hurley, Director, Office of Community Relations, New York University