

Community Board 3, Manhattan  
59 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10003

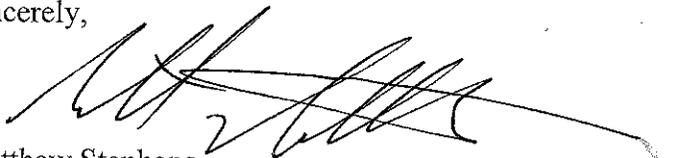
Dear Manhattan Community Board 3 Con Edison Settlement Task Force,

I am pleased to write in support of continuing the Lower East Side Ecology Center's street tree stewardship program being considered for funding from the Community Board 3 Con Edison Settlement Fund. As part of PlaNYC's MillionTreesNYC program, the Parks department has been working steadily to plant 220,000 new street trees based on requests from individuals, block plantings of target blocks with few or no trees and replacing dead trees. From Spring 2011 through Spring 2012, with consultation from the Ecology Center, we planted 100 new street trees in the area near the Con Edison power plant.

We will continue to work closely with the Ecology Center to plant more trees in the area. This October, we joined Ecology Center staff on a site visit of the Settlement Area to successfully identify sites where more trees could be planted and dead or missing trees could be replaced. Since this site visit, the brackish floodwaters and winds of Hurricane Sandy may have damaged the street trees in the area. We will work with the Ecology Center and their neighborhood street tree stewards to identify storm-damaged trees that need replacement.

The Lower East Side Ecology Center has an excellent record of motivating local residents to become involved in stewardship of East River Park, and has collaborated with MillionTreesNYC and other neighborhood groups to educate the community about the need to care for new street trees. We are confident that they will continue to do a great job of educating and inspiring residents and local youth to care for the new trees planted close to the Con Edison Plant and in the Con Edison Settlement Zone of Community Board 3 and we look forward to working closely with the Ecology Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Stephens', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Matthew Stephens  
Director of Street Tree Planting  
Central Forestry & Horticulture