

Save SoHo-NoHo Coalition

*Bowery Alliance of Neighbors * Broadway Residents Coalition * Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation * New York City Loft Tenants * NoHo Neighborhood Association * SoHo Alliance*

March 5, 2019

Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Marissa Lago, Director
NYC Department of City Planning
120 Broadway, 31st floor
New York, NY 10271

Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
One Centre Street, 19th floor South
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Margaret Chin, NYC Councilmember
101 Lafayette Street, 9th floor
New York, NY 10013

Dear Mayor de Blasio, Director Lago, Borough President Brewer, and City Councilmember Chin,

We write regarding the current SoHo/NoHo 'planning process.' We are very concerned about the possibility of this process being used to affect changes to these neighborhoods that will harm their character and negatively impact its residents, especially long-term residents and artists who live here.

In response, we have formed the Save SoHo-NoHo Coalition, to advocate for protecting the features of these neighborhoods and their zoning which we believe are valuable and important. We also intend to keep the community informed about and engaged in the process, and to provide an avenue for wider sharing of ideas among residents and others.

Toward that end, we have adopted the following principles regarding the zoning and other regulations for SoHo and NoHo:







- Preserve the existing rights and protections for residents, esp. artists/those in JLWQA (Joint Living-Work Quarters for Artists)
- Maintain the existing allowable FAR (density of development as measured by floor area)
- Uphold existing limits on the maximum allowable size of retail

- Keep public review for developments or uses not currently allowed
- Limit types of university uses to those allowable under existing zoning
- Keep the creative character of SoHo and NoHo

We strongly urge you to support these principles as well, which we believe are fundamental to protecting the character of these neighborhoods, especially for its residents.

Additionally, we urge you to include a certified artist on the Advisory Group, of which there currently are none, and to extend the timetable for the process through the fall rather than the summer, given that many affected people are away for the summer.

Sincerely,

					
Sean Sweeney <i>SoHo Alliance</i>	Jeanne Wilcke <i>NoHo Neighborhood Association</i>	Chuck DeLaney <i>New York City Loft Tenants</i>	Andrew Berman <i>Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation</i>	Pete Davies <i>Broadway Residents Coalition</i>	David Mulkins <i>Bowery Alliance of Neighbors</i>

Cc: SoHo NoHo Advisory Group members
 City Council Speaker Corey Johnson
 Public Advocate Jumaane Williams
 City Councilmember Carlina Rivera
 State Senator Brian Kavanagh
 State Senator Brad Hoylman
 State Assemblymember Deborah Glick
 State Assemblymember Yuh-Line Niou
 Community Board #2, Manhattan