



Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation

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April 23, 2010

Hon. Amanda Burden
Director, NYC Department of City Planning
22 Reade Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: Rezoning of C6-1 Zone in the Far West Village, Manhattan

Dear Director Burden:

We were disappointed to learn that the promised proposed rezoning of the C6-1 district in the Far West Village to a C1-6A zone will not be certified in late April or early May as was publicly stated at a Community Board #2 Zoning Committee meeting in February. While we appreciate the Manhattan office's willingness to be forthcoming with this information, we feel strongly that this much-needed, long-overdue rezoning has already been delayed far too long.

We and other community groups first approached the Department about the need for this rezoning over two years ago. We repeatedly stressed the urgency of this need to the Department, Community Board 2, and our elected officials, but only saw movement after a year and a half of communication directed toward that end. There are several developments already seeking to move ahead under the old zoning, so, as we have repeatedly made clear, time is of the essence. This community has gone too long without action on this issue to accept further delays. While we understand the Department cannot guarantee that a rezoning would take effect before any new projects move ahead, we feel strongly that it is of the utmost importance that the rezoning be certified and move through the review and approval process as soon as possible.

We understand that the Department believes that the May 24th meeting is now the absolute earliest date at which the proposed rezoning could be certified. We thus strongly urge that certification take place no later than that date, which is already more than two years after our initial request and a few weeks later than we were told certification would happen.

We appreciate the Department staff's willingness to communicate about the status of this project, and have no doubt they are working hard on it. However, we strongly hope that the next news we receive from the Department will be that a vote on the certification of this rezoning has been scheduled for the Commission's May 24th meeting.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman, Executive Director
Greenwich Village Society
for Historic Preservation

Gerald Banu
President
Perry Street Block Association

Katy Bordonaro + Zack Winestine 

Katy Bordonaro and Zack Winestine
Co-Chairs
Greenwich Village Community Task Force

Edwin L. Hofmann 

Edwin L. Hofmann
Vice President
Washington West 11th Owners Corp.

Geoffrey Knox 

Geoffrey Knox
Perry Street Crusaders

Cc: Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer
Congressman Jerrold Nadler
State Senator Tom Duane
City Council Speaker Christine Quinn
Assemblymember Deborah Glick
Community Board #2, Manhattan