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ASSISTANT WHIP



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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January 20, 2015

Vicki Been
Commissioner
NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development
100 Gold Street
New York, NY 10038

Dear Commissioner Been,

I am writing in regard to the Elizabeth Street Garden, located on a through lot on Elizabeth Street, between Prince & Spring Streets. As a community non-profit, the Elizabeth Street Garden provides recreational opportunities for many of my nearby constituents. While I applaud the Administration's significant commitment to the creation of affordable housing throughout the City, and in particular to the development of senior affordable housing in this community, I am concerned about the possible elimination of open space in the area.

Manhattan Community Board 2 (CB2) has an open space ratio of 0.58 acres per 1,000 residents, well below the City's goal of 25 acres. The Soho/Little Italy area in particular has very limited open space, and extremely limited opportunities available for the creation of additional open areas in the future.

As the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) weighs its plans, I encourage the agency to thoroughly explore all options for alternative sites that would provide at least the same number of affordable units within the community. I have long supported efforts to help seniors find affordable housing solutions in their own communities, and I am hopeful that a solution may be found that allows the development of affordable housing serving this community while preserving badly-needed open space. In its December 21, 2015 resolution on this matter, CB2 presents a number of alternative sites within the Community District that it believes would meet these dual goals. I ask that HPD investigate those sites, as well as any others that would allow for both the preservation of this open space and the creation of the largest amount of affordable housing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerrold Nadler".

JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress