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January 21, 2016

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

Dear Commissioner Been:

I am writing regarding the Elizabeth Street Garden at Elizabeth Street between Prince and Spring Streets, which lies within Manhattan Community Board 2, an area that I represent.

I wish you to know that I strongly support the continuation of the Elizabeth Street Garden as a vital and treasured green space for the Little Italy and SoHo community. While I certainly appreciate and support the City Administration's efforts to expand the availability of affordable housing in New York City, in this particular location I am alarmed about the impact of eliminating desperately needed open space in this very dense neighborhood.

While Little Italy and SoHo residents account for 23% of Community Board 2 (CB2)'s population, the neighborhood accounts for only 3% of CB2's open space. Among the space that does exist, nearly all of it is paved, including DeSalvio and Vesuvio Playgrounds, Petrosino Square and Grand Canal Court. The vast majority of the open space in CB2's catchment area is in Washington Square Park, located nearly a mile from the Elizabeth Street Garden, and Hudson River Park, which is 1.2 miles away.

There are few issues that have such widespread support from my constituents in CB2 as the preservation of the Elizabeth Street Garden. I strongly encourage the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) to follow the approach of CB2 in its December 21, 2015 resolution, in which CB2 requested that Elizabeth Street Garden



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remain a green space and that HPD explore alternative sites within CB2, some of which community members worked diligently to identify.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Hoylman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brad Hoylman
New York State Senate
27th Senate District