

AFFIDAVIT OF RENÉE GREEN IN SUPPORT OF VERIFIED PETITION

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.:
COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

RENÉE GREEN, having been duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am Chair of the Board of Directors of Elizabeth Street Garden, Inc. (“ESG”), a non-profit organization that manages the operation of Elizabeth Street Garden (the “Garden”) and is dedicated to protecting and preserving the Garden as a public community green space.

2. I submit this Affidavit in support of the Verified Petition submitted by Petitioners and in opposition to the proposed Haven Green Project (the “Proposed Project”) that would demolish Elizabeth Street Garden to develop a seven-story mixed-use building with 123 affordable housing studio units.

3. The entrance to my building is located on Elizabeth Street, approximately 200 feet from the Garden and I have lived there for the past 12 years. I bought my apartment 34 years ago as my retirement home, while still pursuing my 30-year career in local government in Livingston, N.J., first as Town Clerk, later as a member of the Town Council and finally as Mayor.

4. I became involved in preserving the Garden in 2013. I attended and spoke at public hearings held by Community Board 2. I became a board member of Friends of Elizabeth Street Garden in 2014 and subsequently started serving on the Board of Directors of ESG in 2017. I am also a long-time volunteer in the Garden.

5. From the beginning, the Garden became an important part of my life. My husband and I used to walk together in the Garden before he passed away. Now that I am alone, the Garden has become more important to me. I love speaking with people from the neighborhood,

other parts of the country, and all over the world. As I have aged and my arthritis and asthma have worsened, limiting the amount of walking I can do, the Garden has become a focus point in my life.

6. I enjoy the sense of community Elizabeth Street Garden has created, and the Garden has actually become the center of the community. When I am in the Garden, I enjoy seeing people walking their dogs and parents playing with their children. Start-up companies in the area often have lunch meetings in the Garden.

7. ESG has organized many cultural and educational programs in the Garden, such as Tai Chi classes for the public, gardening classes for elementary school students, and reading programs for toddlers on a regular basis. In summer, there are movie nights and Sunday afternoon concerts.

8. In my experience as a board member of ESG, I have seen a tremendous amount of local support for preserving the Garden as it is. I attend monthly board meetings and frequently reach out to other board members and local officials. I participate in rallies and fundraising events and speak at public hearings, which are always well-attended.

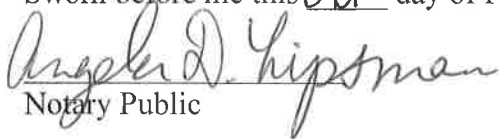
9. As a resident living in close proximity to Elizabeth Street Garden and a board member of ESG, I am deeply concerned about the significant negative effects the Project will have on me and my community. Elizabeth Street Garden is not an empty lot as mischaracterized by the government. It has significant value to the community. It adds to the neighborhood character, it provides a beautiful, serene public green, open space for the community, and it serves cultural and educational purposes. There is very little public green space in Little Italy and SoHo. The demolition of the Garden will be devastating to the community.

10. I enthusiastically support more affordable housing for seniors; however, the Proposed Project will provide 123 units, all of which will be studios. There is at least one other site available for affordable housing, as proposed by Community Board 2, and that site can provide more and bigger units.

11. For those reasons and the reasons set forth in the Verified Petition, I respectfully request that the relief set forth in the Verified Petition be granted in its entirety.


Renée Green

Sworn before me this 20th day of February 2019


Notary Public

ANGELA DANIELLE LIPSMAN
Notary Public, State of New York
Registration #02LI6287740
Qualified In New York County
Commission Expires Aug. 19, 2021