



## Elizabeth Street Garden Questionnaire - Nomiki Konst

### **1. Have you visited Elizabeth Street Garden before? If so, please describe your experience.**

Yes. I have often enjoyed spending time in the Garden as a Lower East Side resident. It is a truly wonderful place. Most recently I was there for a rally, organized to protect the garden.

### **2. What is your position on the alternative site solution that would use 388 Hudson – a gravel-filled, city-owned lot – to provide 5x the amount of affordable housing and additional public open space while saving Elizabeth Street Garden?**

I support this proposal and furthermore, we shouldn't be pitting communities against each other.

### **3. Given the immediate threat, how as Public Advocate would you work with our community to protect and preserve Elizabeth Street Garden and use the alternative site for the proposed development?**

I would work closely with the Garden community and its supporters to speak out using the press, organizing elected officials, city agencies and other relevant parties. The reason why the Garden is threatened is because of the over-development and disproportionate influence of the real estate developers that are making our city unlivable. This is exactly why I am running for Public Advocate.

### **4. What is your position on how the City prioritizes public open green space and how community gardens are being pitted against the need for affordable housing?**

Community Gardens should not be pitted against the need for affordable housing. This is a cynical attempt by the real estate developers to distract from the core issues that affect the working people of New York. Namely, wages are too low and rents are too high. Wealthy oligarchs use NYC apartments as tax shelters and, meanwhile, our city's tax dollars are going to subsidize Jeff Bezos' helipad. I am the only candidate in this race who has pledged not to take money from real estate developers, unlike all of the officials that are currently going for the position of public advocate. Over-development and unaffordable housing, along with income inequality, are the biggest issues our city is facing. And, again, this is exactly why I am running because we need a truly independent advocate in this office who will take on and confront real estate developers and also who will expose the corruption through which they are buying off our elected officials.