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COMMUNITY BOARD No. 2, MANHATTAN

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January 21, 2011

Amanda Burden, Commissioner
NYC Department of City Planning
22 Reade Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioner Burden:

At its Full Board meeting on January 20, 2011, Community Board 2 (Manhattan) adopted the following resolution:

Proposed SoHo Business Improvement District

Whereas, at its November 18, 2010 meeting, in the face of overwhelming public opposition, CB2, Manhattan, passed a unanimous resolution strongly opposing the formation of a SoHo Business Improvement District (BID); and

Whereas, CB2 found that the BID applicants had conducted a poor public outreach campaign, and had failed to clearly explain to, or convince, people who live in the area that there is a need for a BID, beyond providing sanitation services; and

Whereas, there are viable alternatives for sufficient sanitation services, such as fully supporting A.C.E. (SoHo Partnership) in their current street cleaning program; and

Whereas, CB2 listed a number of specific objections to the BID as proposed, including:

- There is no mechanism in place to ensure that all residential owners will not be assessed more than \$1 annually, as is the custom in all BIDs in New York City
- There is concern that the voting membership is unfairly weighted in favor of condo owners over co-op owners because votes are tallied by tax lot
- One of the stated missions of the BID is Marketing/Promotion/Advertising, with the goal of attracting businesses to the neighborhood, when the area is already burdened with traffic and pedestrian congestion

Whereas, the BID applicants have had two months to address our concerns, and to meet with residents in order to develop support; and

Whereas, CB2 has no evidence that this has happened; and

Whereas, the BID applicants have not resolved the inequitable assessment formula for all of the residential co-op buildings.

Therefore, be it resolved that CB 2 continues to oppose, unconditionally, the SoHo BID application and urges the Department of City Planning and our elected officials to reject it, as well.

Vote: Unanimous, with 38 Board members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jo Hamilton".

Jo Hamilton, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JH/bg

cc: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Daniel L. Squadron, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Member
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Man. Borough President
Hon. Christine C. Quinn, Council Speaker
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member
Robert W. Walsh, Commissioner, Dept. of Small Business Services
Lolita Jackson, Manhattan Director, CAU
Jessica Dewberry, Dept. of City Planning
Mary Balaban, A.C.E.