



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

A private university in the public service

Government Affairs and Community Engagement

University Relations and Public Affairs
70 Washington Square South, Room 1107
New York, New York 10012-1019
telephone: 212 998 6859
fax: 212 995 4849
alicia.hurley@nyu.edu

Alicia D. Hurley, Ph.D. *Vice-President*

September 15, 2011

Dear Chair Hoylman,

New York University is pleased to announce that as part of its preliminary Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) filing, it will be filing maps requesting parkland designation for two of the more prominently used public open spaces that are located along the edges of the Washington Square superblocks, often referred to as the "DOT strips". The designation of these strips as parkland is part of a larger package that provides a pathway forward for the University to meet its critical growth needs on the blocks and yet build in components that have been articulated by the community and elected leaders as important.

The mapping application, to be filed with the Department of City Planning, will designate these LaGuardia and Mercer areas, from West 3rd to Bleecker Street as parkland, providing an assurance that they will remain green, open spaces for the public to enjoy. Buildings that had formerly been located on the strips have been moved off, but the University will seek to build below-ground as part of its plan to maximize its ability to put academic space below-grade.

The application will be in support of NYU's broader superblock plans which call for adding four new buildings, including a site to be donated to the City to build a public school, on the University's property and re-envisioning the landscape on the blocks to open up 3 acres of new public open space in Greenwich Village and offer a range of amenities to our neighbors including playgrounds, passive seating space, and a dog run.

NYU anticipates entering into ULURP later this year when the Department of City Planning certifies the application as complete and ready for public review. Following certification, a seven-month-long review period will begin which includes suggested input from the Community Board and the Borough President, culminating in a vote by the City Planning Commission and then the New York City Council. There will be numerous opportunities for continued public input throughout the review process.

Sincerely,