

December 2008

Dear Neighbor,

As the year comes to a close and we count our blessings, I want to thank you for all you do on behalf of our community, family and friends. We all contribute to make the Upper West Side a better place, whether it is through our work or volunteer efforts. And, there is much to be proud of.

At least twice a week, each week, this month, Community Board 7 met to review the important questions we want the developer Extell to explore as we determine the impact of new buildings at Riverside South. With the addition of so much density, what will the impact be on traffic, Riverside Park, local schools, affordable housing, and open space? You can read minutes of these meetings on our website: www.nyc.gov/mcb7. Residents of our community participated and made helpful suggestions. The conversations were thoughtful and detailed. Please join us at our next Full Board meeting on January 6th when we will review our final list.

I am grateful to the food banks in our neighborhoods that are working harder than ever to serve the growing number of folks coming for food. If you need assistance, a list of the local food banks that provide food or serve meals is posted on our website. If you would like to contribute, the list specifies the type of assistance each organization would prefer.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our question about proposals to build new buildings on the Upper West Side. These developments will increase the population of our district, and the new residents will undoubtedly have an impact on our public infrastructure. The question is: What are you most concerned about being affected: schools, traffic, open space, sanitation, public safety or something else? Why?

Here is a pared down version of a response that was typical of the many we received: "I would be most concerned with the following: lack of school space, increased traffic flow, and lack of open space. Schools are already jammed, traffic has increased already with all the new buildings in the Lincoln Square Area, and open space is closing in. Plus, there is planning to build more huge towers at the end of 62nd @ Amsterdam. Stop please."

Stay warm. Enjoy your family and friends. And, I look forward to working with you in 2009!

Helen Rosenthal
Chair, Community Board 7