

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Monday, August 9, 2021 at 5:13:09 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL
Attachments: MAS BBG Ltr to CPC FINAL 8.9.21.logos.pdf

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Elizabeth Goldstein**
Zip: **10022**

I represent:

- **A local community group or organization**

Details for "I Represent": **The Municipal Art Society and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**
If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

Dear Chair Lago and City Planning Commissioners, Thank you for the opportunity to share additional commentary on the impacts that the proposed 960 Franklin Avenue development would have on cherished community spaces in Crown Heights, specifically Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG), Jackie Robinson Playground, and Medgar Evers College. To be clear: this project would have disastrous effects on some of Crown Heights' most heavily frequented open public places, a neighborhood already identified by the City as underserved by open space. Even the Developer's own DEIS and the Arborist Report make this evident. Our analysis is limited to the original proposal by the Developer, rather than the new, illusory project advanced at the July 29th hearing. We will refrain from judgement as to the theatrics and tactics employed in their gambit to subvert the City's review process. Third party research by MAS and BBG evaluates additional metrics Independent researchers were hired by The Municipal Art Society and Brooklyn

Botanic Garden to address the shortfalls of the current DEIS, which, as you know, looks at the duration of only new shadows on sunlight-sensitive resources, per CEQR Technical Manual requirements. This new body of research provides a more comprehensive understanding of the impacts by studying access to sunlight, thermal comfort, and impacts on specific plant species, as well as thermally beneficial sunlight which tells us about the impacts of shadows on human use of open spaces. Five measures reveal a more dramatic set of impacts than previously understood.

- Daily light integral: The proposed development would cost BBG greenhouses more than 10 days of daylight in each collection and 30 days in the Tropical and Aquatic collections. Lost days are concentrated during the growing seasons in the shoulder months. Overall summer light levels are also significantly reduced.
- Shadow increases: The proposed development will increase shadows across BBG collections, from 1 to 2 hours in March to up to 3.5 hours in June. The Tropical, Aquatic, and Desert plant collections, which are highly sensitive to reductions in sunlight, will be the most affected because of their proximity to the proposed buildings, just 150 feet to the east.
- Winter daylight access: Streets and sidewalks surrounding the project site will lose 100% of the current sunlight levels during winter months when sunlight is most precious. Surrounding streets and public spaces beyond this immediate impact zone would lose up to 1.5 hours of sun per day during the winter.
- Street tree survival: Trees along Franklin Avenue, McKeever Place, and in Jackie Robinson Playground would lose 6 or more hours a day of direct sunlight, representing a loss of 9 weeks of their growing season. Trees along Montgomery Street and in the Medgar Evers College campus would also lose several weeks of adequate sunlight during the growing season.
- Thermal comfort: Medgar Evers College and Jackie Robinson Playground will experience the greatest impact on thermal comfort, a combination of outdoor conditions that contribute to human comfort outdoors. In February when the need for sunlight is especially acute, losses would be greater than 2.5 hours in these areas and along BBG's pathways.

Vulnerable Plant Collections The collections most vulnerable to loss of sunlight are displayed in the Garden's Conservatory complex. These collections and examples of rare or endangered plants they hold are highlighted below:

- Orchid collection The orchid collection holds thousands of tropical and subtropical orchids from around the world, including 100 Vanda orchids, well known as some of the most sunlight-dependent orchid species. The Vanda genus occurs in tropical Asia, close to the equator, where it has evolved to grow high in sun-drenched tree canopies with consistent day-length throughout the year. BBG's specialist growers predict that these orchids, which include rare and

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From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL
Attachments: 08-09-21 MAS Comments to CPC on 960 Franklin Avenue FINAL.pdf

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- Community District: **9**

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Submitted by:

Name: **Thomas Devaney**
Zip: **10022**

I represent:

- **A local community group or organization**

Details for "I Represent": **The Municipal Art Society of New York**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **Yes**

Additional Comments:

For more than two years, the Municipal Art Society of New York (MAS) has extensively analyzed the development proposed by Continuum Company for 960 Franklin Avenue from both planning and environmental perspectives. While we recognize the need for affordable housing in Crown Heights, we strongly object to the development on many levels. This includes the astoundingly cavalier approach the developer has taken in the public review process, most recently with the introduction of a 17-story alternative proposal after the Commission's review session and when all public comment opportunities had been exhausted. Second, as elaborated on below, the development's unprecedented scale and devastating shadow impacts on Jackie Robinson Playground and the conservatories, greenhouses, and nurseries at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG) do not reflect sound planning and would by no

means be appropriate for Crown Heights. Moreover, though the proposal has been touted by the developers as addressing the lack of affordable housing, only a fraction of the proposed housing units would be affordable to the average Crown Heights resident. The project also utilizes questionable rationales to justify the site's proposed R9D zoning and the height and density of the towers. For these and other reasons we urge the Commission to recommend disapproval of the project. Transparency and Accountability As participants in each stage of the public discussion of this project, we too were blindsided by the new 17-story proposal presented at the August 26 Commission public hearing. Despite the considerable time we have spent studying the project scoping documents and the DEIS, it was not possible for MAS or anyone else to fully understand the details of the revised proposal. The fundamental issue is that the public has a right to understand and comment on the proposal being considered by the Commission. We understand that the Department of City Planning has determined that they will not review the new 17-story alternative. We commend that decision. Our comments herein are focused on the proposal that was certified by the Commission. Project Scale Located just 200 feet from BBG, the proposed development is situated in a 13-block section of Crown Heights that was rezoned in 1991 to encourage residential development "in keeping with the existing neighborhood character and minimize the potential shadow impact upon the Botanic Garden from any new residential development." Yet at 1.4 million gross square feet, 960 Franklin Avenue would be one of Brooklyn's largest developments in terms of area. Its two 39-story towers (421 and 424 feet tall) would be more than six times taller than what is currently allowed under zoning, and taller than any other residential development in over a one-and-a-half-mile radius. Numerous public officials have objected to the scale of the development. Comparing the buildings' bulk to what one would find in Downtown Brooklyn, Commission Chair Marisa Lago said that the development is "without precedent" and inappropriate for an area that has narrow streets and lacks immediate proximity to subway stations. New York City Council Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo stated that there is no precedent for zoning higher than R8 outside of Downtown Brooklyn. "To even consider a development of this size and scale outside of Downtown Brooklyn," she said, "the public benefits would have to be massive and the site uniquely appropriate." Even Mayor de Blasio called the development "grossly out of scale" and said that he would not support it. Please see full comments in the attached PDF.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Monday, August 9, 2021 at 4:00:36 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL
Attachments: 2021-07-29 Dept of City Planning, RB.pdf

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Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Rowan Blaik**
Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**
- **A local community group or organization**

Details for "I Represent": **Brooklyn Botanic Garden**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **Yes**

Additional Comments:

Please see attached, a written transcript of my testimony. Thank you again for your consideration.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Monday, August 9, 2021 at 10:32:43 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL
Attachments: Adam Ganer_NY4P_CPC Testimony 960 Franklin.pdf

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Submitted by:

Name: **ADAM GANSER**
Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Other**

Details for "I Represent": **New Yorkers for Parks**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Please see attached

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Monday, August 9, 2021 at 7:45:47 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

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Submitted by:

Name: **Lynn Evans**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **--None--**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

In this time of frightening climate change it seems anti earth to even think of reducing the huge positive Carbon footprint of the BBG. There is a long history of creating and preserving green space in all of NYC. Destroying much of the BBG is a seriously destructive and dangerous move for all of the inhabitants of the area physically and psychologically. The current zoning should remain in place. Thank-you

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Sunday, August 8, 2021 at 7:25:55 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

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Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Kristen Griggs**
Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I'm opposed to the rezoning because the size of the proposed new building will negatively impact the amount of sunlight received by the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. Any architectural project must consider the environment around it, and the unique location of this project next to such a rare natural resource as the garden means that it must be constrained so that won't harm this valuable greenspace. The garden is important recreationally, environmentally, and scientifically to the community of Brooklyn and NYC as a whole. Allowing such a tall building to be built will be a detriment and a redesign within the existing height restrictions should be required.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Sunday, August 8, 2021 at 6:07:03 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL
Attachments: Fight For Sunlight_Rebecca Schlossberg Testimony.docx

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
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Submitted by:

Name: **Rebecca Schlossberg**
Zip: **11218**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Please see the attached testimony/letter in opposition of this zoning project.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Sunday, August 8, 2021 at 11:25:38 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

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Submitted by:

Name: **Michelle Paterson**
Zip: **11203**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Developers are heartless, save Brooklyn please.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Sunday, August 8, 2021 at 11:24:26 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

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Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **SABRINA PATERSON**
Zip: **11203**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project?
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

DONT BLOCK THE SUN!

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Sunday, August 8, 2021 at 11:15:54 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
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- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Aloise Visosky**
Zip: **11203**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project?
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

This should not be an issue. Please protect the Garden, the neighborhood. Enough.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Sunday, August 8, 2021 at 8:55:14 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
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- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Noah Kaplan**

Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am opposed to this rezoning on the ground that the Brooklyn Botanic Garden should not suffer in any way due to development. The original zoning was put in place to protect the gardens and that is how it should remain. The garden is a public space for everyone, and one of the rare spaces of its kind in NYC that makes the city more livable for everyone. Developers should not be able to impact its continued existence. There are plenty of other places to put a large development like this that won't negatively impact something as important as the BBG.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, August 7, 2021 at 11:04:45 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

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- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Melanie Nowlin**

Zip: **07711**

I represent:

- **Myself**
- **A local community group or organization**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

We are in need of beauty that all can see, appreciate and learn from. There are places where people live that never see trees, flowers, or gardens. For New York to be fortunate enough to have this magnificent treasure and now threaten it is a travesty. For what, another building? How many skyscrapers in the city versus how many gardens or places for people to connect with nature? People come from all over the world to visit this one of a kind spot. This would be a terrible mistake that once done cannot be undone. Think carefully.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, August 6, 2021 at 8:20:34 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
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- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

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Submitted by:

Name: **Aryan Vavila**

Zip: **10003**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

A building should not cast a continuous shadow on our lovely botanical garden. Such an enterprise is antithetical to our community values, and it is a shame that the project has made it so far down the development pipeline.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, August 6, 2021 at 5:38:11 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
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- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

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Submitted by:

Name: **Ronen Gamil**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I am a long-time local resident and person with strong, long-lasting ties to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Ronen Gamil 49 Crown Street Brooklyn, NY 11225 ronengamil@gmail.com August 6, 2021 City Planning Commission Local Resident Opposition to 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning Application Dear City Planning Commission, I am writing to express my fierce opposition to the 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning Application. I live within walking distance from both the proposed development property and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. I have a deep, long-lasting connection to both Crown Heights and BBG. I have been trained at BBG as a gardener in 2014. That training has led to a career that continues to this day so I am indebted to BBG for my professional growth and livelihood. BBG is a precious cultural, ecological, and educational space and a gem of our Borough of Brooklyn. It is well known that the proposed development will drastically impact the Garden's collections and growing facilities by reducing essential sunlight

hours that will simply be devastating and irreparable. I am deeply troubled by the effects of such development on the neighborhood I call home. The claim that the proposed development will include many affordable units is highly questionable within the context of the inherent flaws of using percentages of the AMI to calculate affordability, rather than a more localized income metric; these flaws, which are sadly a source of manipulation by both elected officials and developers, have led countless advocates to ask: "affordable for whom?" As a result, the proposed development will inevitably usher in an aggressive and vast wave of gentrification, displacement, and exclusion; these undesirable effects will also spill over and encourage other speculative behaviors of future developers in my neighborhood and will worsen tenant-owner relations by creating a climate of a neighborhood that is up for sale as a haven for tempting profits. I urge you to reject this proposed development in its entirety, to respect the integrity of Crown Heights, and to protect and keep BBG as a prized community asset for Brooklyn. Sincerely, Ronen Gamil

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, August 6, 2021 at 1:32:08 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

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- Community District: **9**

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Submitted by:

Name: **Samantha Schreiber**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanic Gardens is home to so many beautiful and valuable plants. Without the sunlight, many of these plants cannot thrive and might even suffer the consequences of just another large building, which could be relocated, while the existing garden cannot.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, August 6, 2021 at 12:59:32 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
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- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

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Submitted by:

Name: **Elena Callahan**

Zip: **11226**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I have lived in Flatbush for the past 9 years.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I strongly believe that this development should not be built right next to the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. I am a supporter of the garden and have attended several times a year over the years. It is a sacred resource to this community and depends on access to sun in order to thrive. Nature is so limited in NYC that we should preserve and protect it in every way that we can. This is an environmental justice issue as well as this could limit the access to nature for communities in Crown Heights and Flatbush which are historically communities of color including poor and working class families.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, August 6, 2021 at 11:17:35 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

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Submitted by:

Name: **Adriana Vink**

Zip: **11218**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanical Garden is such a beautiful, magical place. For most of my childhood, my mom and I didn't have a car. So, instead of going on weekend trips outside of the city, we would escape to BBG. We rolled around in the grass, marveled at the cherry trees (which are stunning when in bloom), and quite literally smelled the roses. If towers are built at 960 Franklin Avenue, hours of sunlight to the Garden would be blocked. If the 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning application is approved, the next generation may not have access to this fantastic garden or its educational programming. The NYC mayor, director of the NYC Department of City Planning, Council Speaker, Council Majority Leader, and Community Board 9 have expressed opposition to the rezoning application. I ask that you do the same.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, August 6, 2021 at 10:08:26 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **rozemarijn bradshaw**

Zip: **11221**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I very much oppose the building and rezoning of 960 Frankling avenue. The proposed rezoning would detriment the natural spaces that have been tended to and provide relief for animals, insects, and humans alike. Sunlight is an essential part of the life of a garden and flowering spaces. The proposed structure would detriment community members relationships with the important preserved green space of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Additionally I believe the building is grossly out of scale with the rest of the neighborhood. Please preserve communities as much as possible. Such a large building will deeply impact the already existing community.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, August 6, 2021 at 7:43:43 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Kok Chih Gan**

Zip: **11249**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **Lifelong visitors to Brooklyn Botanical Garden**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

My wife and I have been lifelong visitor and patron of Brooklyn Botanical Garden since we became residents of the great NY state. Since we have our daughter, she has been following us to BBG since she's an infant. Just wanted to say how important BBG and it's plants are to us. Oli says "flowers are my friends".

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 8:40:13 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Jaime Marvin**
Zip: **11216**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

As an avid supporter of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, this rezoning would have disastrous effects. The Botanic Garden is an oasis in this community, a haven for biological diversity, a vital space for our local wellbeing, and a cultural touchstone. Please, don't destroy this space by depriving it of the sunlight it needs to thrive.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 6:07:48 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Cara Metz**
Zip: **11230**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **Myself, my extended family and large circle of friends, who all use the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, and have since we were wee children.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

We have happy memories of playing in the cherry blossoms and continue to enjoy the garden in all seasons -- even winter, with the witch hazel and other intriguing specimens! This garden is a treasure for the whole city, and starving it of sunlight will kill many varieties of trees and plants and make the whole experience less pleasurable. Like plants, we humans too, need air and sunlight to enjoy a beautiful day. Please don't cave in to the monied interests and create more condos and apartment buildings at the expense of this jewel box of flowering plants and trees that enrich all our lives. I have been a member of this garden for more than 20 years and hope to be able to continue

enjoying it, along with friends and family. Even in our urban world -- or especially in our urban world -- we need the respite of nature and the joy that comes with seeing such a wide range of exotic plants that spark curiosity and joy in our youngest to our oldest. My 90-year-old mother, a lifelong Brooklynite, continued to enjoy this garden as well! It is always a special day when we can enjoy the Brooklyn Botanic Garden together. Once the light is gone, it will never be back and we will all be the poorer for it.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 3:40:15 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Marc Rudolph**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

You have no doubt heard many words from BBG members and supporters opposed to this project. I am a member of the garden myself and oppose this upward rezoning for all the reasons you've already heard from members. However, I would like to represent another important reason to oppose that was less vocally shared during the hearing. [Assemblywoman Forrest did speak to it]. I have seen a number of large luxury buildings spring up in my neighborhood (Prospect Lefferts Gardens). These buildings are out of character with the neighborhood and stick out like sore thumbs. They are unaffordable for the vast majority of current residents. I don't care what the developers of

this project say about providing affordable housing and the latest numbers they gave, I don't believe them because they keep moving the goalposts to appease people. When you combine that with the shadows harmful to the tropical plants in the BBG, it's a clear and resounding "NO" from me. An approval of this rezoning would send a clear message that no matter what a community wants, rich developers always win. Is that the message you would like to send? Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 2:54:07 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Tabitha Wasserman**
Zip: **11234**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

if you could stop destroying everything that is good in this world, that would be super duper. Thank you for coming to my TED talk.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 1:21:10 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Alan Raderman**
Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I object to this project because of the harmful impact that shadows from the planned luxury condominiums would have on the Garden, Medgar Evers College, Jackie Robinson Playground and the surrounding community. The shadows would harm plants that the Garden has carefully cultivated for decades and threaten the entirety of its collection. Buildings and developers cannot continually prevail over the compelling interests of the community. Please reject this project.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 1:17:25 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Virginia Kipps**
Zip: **07304**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The BBG is a wonderful place and should be left alone for the peaceful enjoyment of everyone. Why would you want to let a developer destroy something so beautiful and nurturing?

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 10:02:54 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **David Kastin**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **A longtime Brooklyn resident and Botanical Garden member, this crown jewel of our borough and city must be protected. This is an issue that will affect my vote for local officials!**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**
If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

See above.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 9:27:09 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **GERI NESS**
Zip: **11216**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **Homeowner in Crown Heights**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanical Garden is a unique and special place that provides much pleasure to Brooklynites and travelers from other places beyond. It is really only one of two significant places of greenery that if it was lost or diminished in any way it would make Brooklyn a much less habitable place. Imagine Manhattan without Central Park. There are many, many other places to build "affordable housing" and this project needs to be limited in scope. There

really should be no controversy about this!!

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 7:58:25 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Brian Lafferty**
Zip: **05851**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Preserve the integrity of the Botanical Gardens!

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 7:13:43 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Harold Neimark**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

All the boroughs of NYC badly need affordable housing, But the owners of the Company promoting this project are asking you to make a false choice between (1) providing a pitiful number of affordable apartments for several years (it is only a matter of years before these apts. revert to market rate!) and,(2) causing, forever, severe damage to one

of the great asset of NYC. Farsighted public servants years ago sought to protect the garden forever by adding special zoning. How could the Commission vote that away?

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 7:05:34 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Margaret Haight**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a TREASURE that NYC is entrusted to protect. This Garden must be nurtured and protected for the benefit of all; NOT for exploitation by a few with encroaching development. Protect Protect PROTECT the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, it is a major open space in Brooklyn and a source of pride and pure well being

in this borough.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 6:56:05 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Susan Heron**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I have enjoyed the allure of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden for four seasons yearly and often distinctly varied environments on the same day depending on which part of the Garden beckons; How injurious to interfere with this

superb presentation of flora, fauna and tranquility.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 5:49:32 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Stevin Nemeth**

Zip: **11209**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **A Brooklyn-born resident and member of the Brooklyn Botanic garden.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The devastating impact this rezoning will have on the garden- the loss of sunlight on the plant specimens in the hothouses and elsewhere, by this enormous, looming structure. It will only degrade this very special Brooklyn gem. It

certainly will not improve the neighborhood.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 3:42:48 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Julia Miller**
Zip: **11231**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

The project's scale is too large. I am a long-standing member of Brooklyn Botanic Garden, my profession is Garden

Design and were this project to be constructed as per plans, I understand, first hand, what a reduction in sunlight does to plants, shrubs and trees. The project, as above stated, is beyond ANY other development scale and would permanently alter a portion of the Botanic Garden and Jackie Robinson playground.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 3:35:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **dennis mcavena**

Zip: **11201**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanical Garden is one of NYC's Crown jewels! It has over 18,000 species, and hosts close to one

million annual visitors. Without proper light (this proposed high rise will eliminate much good light) plants will die. Why would a million annual visitors pay to see dead plants. Please don't play with nature. It is our most precious gift.
Dennis R McAvena

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 3:30:50 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **CHRISTOPHER THOMAS**
Zip: **11215-1545**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden has been a refuge for me and my family for nearly 15 years. It would break my heart to see this building affect the natural beauty within the Gardens.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 3:26:35 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Julia Thomas**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am opposed to the 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning proposal that would have devastating effects on Brooklyn Botanic Gardens and nearby open spaces.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 2:34:28 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Dale Worsley**
Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Please do not allow the 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning Proposal to pass. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a resource like no other, serving as a refuge for the public, an educational opportunity for children, and a sanctuary for nature. It is irreplaceable. Of the many reasons to reject the proposal, I would emphasize its value to children. The developers argue that they can set up a community center in their building, but we already have a community center in the BBG: one with sunlight, plants, wildlife. One that provides our youngsters with the healthy outdoor environment they need, along with the learning opportunities that only nature can provide. (See the research on the effects of nature on physical and emotional health in such books as *The Nature Fix*, by Florence Williams.) Allowing shadows to fall on this miracle of a resource, and to hem it in with monolithic walls, would be to destroy its value to children for generations to come. Thank you for considering my thoughts in your deliberations. I know you will make the right decision for our families and our community by rejecting the 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning Proposal.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 12:46:46 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Christine Watler**
Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

"Only when the last tree has died and the last river been poisoned and the last fish has been caught will we realize we cannot eat money." I say with a clear voice NO to the development of the Spice Factory property at 960 Franklin Avenue, Brooklyn. Thank you, Christine Watler

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 12:18:49 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **helen neswald**

Zip: **05154**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

As a former resident of Brooklyn and a 50 year resident of NYC one of my favorite associations with the city is the happy hours I and my young family spent at the BBG. It was a haven from the traffic, noise and confusions of the area. Having retired to rural VT I have attempted to imitate the beauty of its hillside of daffodils under the magnolia trees in early spring and still talk about it with my acquaintances! May the BBG long ssurvive for the pleasure of others!

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 11:00:25 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Jennifer Metz**

Zip: **10075**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

To me it's obvious why one shouldn't harm or destroy a city's garden in the interest of a developer's profit. A haven and resource available to all. A pocket of peace and beauty. Isn't it obvious?

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 8:56:38 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Anthony Bracciante**

Zip: **11229**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

In an already crowded neighborhood this project is wrong. Half of the apartments are market rate and not affordable to the working or middle class residents that are being priced out of Brooklyn. The proposal wants to provide parking for only 16% of these market rate apartments for the upper class in an area where it is currently hard to find parking. This will certainly make a bad situation worse. The shadow created by this development would negatively impact the nearby Brooklyn Botanic Garden and its mission which includes educational outreach to 200,00 New York City schoolchildren annually. The effect on the propagating green houses would be devastating. There is no substitute for sunlight. I strongly urge you to vote no on this project. Anthony Bracciante

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 8:09:12 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Gabriella Belli**

Zip: **20814**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **As a former Brooklyn resident who went to high school near the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, I strongly oppose the proposed construction.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

This project would ruin sections of the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. The developers own documents state this fact. Yet they want approval. Please don't allow them to do this.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 8:05:34 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Michelle Barshay**

Zip: **10001**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am concerned that the building height will affect the sunlight at the botanical gardens which are so important for the present and future of the city.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 1:09:39 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Catherine Lukaszewski**

Zip: **90024**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project?

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

As a former New Yorker, I grew up going to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and have many fond memories of my visits there. The BBG is a treasure and a valuable resource. It is world-renowned and a major tourist draw. This place matters. In a decade, the Garden could have its research collection dead or dying because of the greed of developers. Please oppose this project.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 11:44:35 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Dayle Vander Sande**

Zip: **10025**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

4% of NYC is landmarked and provides public spaces that give NY its character and desirability. Developers grab sites encroaching on these spaces, if not threatening their very existence, when so much other land could be improved and beautified by their investment. I OPPOSE DEVELOPMENT AT 960 FRANKLIN AVE, BROOKLYN to protect the integrity of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and its environs. Give the City a break! We are the only major world city that despises the very sacred spaces that give us character and culture--the very aspects upon which NYC is built. OPPOSE, OPPOSE, OPPOSE this development.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 10:32:04 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Lauren Hussey**

Zip: **11426**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The so-called affordable housing is not affordable to anyone who lives in the neighborhood. That's been proven with the numbers and is part of why Community Board 9 and the locals are so opposed to it. The damage that will be done has also been proven by the developer's own environmental review

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 6:06:49 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Zhifong Wang**

Zip: **11211**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The rezoning would fully shade the precious greenhouses at Brooklyn Botanical into glorified storage sheds, put thousands of trees and flowering plants at risk. This is an assault on one of the city's gems that is a refuge and sanctuary for many.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 3:32:11 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Megan Staffel**

Zip: I am a frequent visitor to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and have been a member for the 8 years I have lived in Brooklyn. I am shocked that a zoning variance that would allow a development that would have a negative effect on a world class botanical museum would even be considered. I ask you: Would you destroy the other great museums in New York City by denying them their reason for existing? Would you make it impossible for the Metropolitan Museum to exhibit art? Of course not, that would be absurd. And yet, that is no different from allowing a zoning variance that would destroy the ability of the BBG to carry out its mission. Two apartment towers, only 150 feet from the greenhouse complex, would block the morning light. That's why zoning was passed in 1991 to prohibit any building higher than seven stories that is proximal to the BBG. The city must uphold a zoning law that was enacted for a sound reason and not give in to the demands of money and power. We are lucky to have the Brooklyn Botanic Garden; it is a living museum that is easily accessible by public transportation and therefore available to everyone who lives and visits this great city.

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

I am a frequent visitor to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and have been a member for the 8 years I have lived in Brooklyn. I am shocked that a zoning variance that would allow a development that would have a negative effect on a world class botanical museum would even be considered. I ask you: Would you destroy the other great museums in New York City by denying them their reason for existing? Would you make it impossible for the Metropolitan Museum to exhibit art? Of course not, that would be absurd. And yet, that is no different from allowing a zoning variance that would destroy the ability of the BBG to carry out its mission. Two apartment towers, only 150 feet from the greenhouse complex, would block the morning light. That's why zoning was passed in 1991 to prohibit any building higher than seven stories that is proximal to the BBG. The city must uphold a zoning law that was enacted for a sound reason and not give in to the demands of money and power. We are lucky to have the Brooklyn Botanic Garden; it is a living museum that is easily accessible by public transportation and therefore available to everyone who lives and visits this great city.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 1:10:07 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Beth Fleisher**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **A community member since 1988.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

This rezoning request of 980 Franklin St. will do obvious and direct harm to multiple public spaces that serve tens of thousands of people each year. The original height restrictions were put in place to protect the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, a public space that educates tens of thousands of NYC children each year. The plant collection is an integral part of that education, and will be irreversibly harmed if the rezoning request is granted. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Prospect Park and Jackie Robinson Playground provide much needed open space for recreation to tens of thousands of New York City residents, members of this Brooklyn community where so few have any access to private open and green spaces. Why should these public spaces be damaged to benefit a private developer? Even if there is a small number of "affordable" units in the proposed project, many thousands of others will lose a precious commodity that will never be replaced for this community: Sunlight. Fresh air. Open spaces.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 1:08:16 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL
Attachments: Julia Charles- City Planning Testimony_BBG.docx

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Julia Charles**
Zip: **11226**

I represent:

- **Myself**
- **A local community group or organization**

Details for "I Represent": **East 25th Street Historic District Initiative**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanic Gardens is not just a horticultural treasure in the middle of central Brooklyn. It is also an institution intended to serve as a place for education, adoration, and reprieve from the hustle and bustle of our amazing city. I fully support the botanic gardens and the community leaders that oppose the erroneous, out-of-scale development in this community. The Brooklyn Botanic Gardens has fully supported the East 25th Street Historic District Initiative which utilized landmark designation to preserve both the architecture and culture of the block. Additionally, the botanic has supported community gardening all through-out Brooklyn and positively affected surrounding areas. The 300 East 25th Street Block Association has a long-standing relationship with BBG with their community gardening initiatives. Particularly, the annual Greenest Block In Brooklyn competition. In-kind, we stand in solidarity with the activists fighting to preserve the gardens and the stewards of the surrounding communities. I write to the City Planning Commission today for your agency to vote down the re-zoning and development of the proposed 960 Franklyn Ave. There is something to be said that this development wishes to go against the current and appropriate zoning laws that were written to protect the gardens. Furthermore, as our city continues to recover, and trust of our city, state and federal agencies are in question, officials should also consider the impact of allowing such development so greatly opposed would result in. Grossly inappropriate development in the guise of "affordable" housing is an issue throughout this city. The proposed 960 Franklyn Ave needs to be voted down to protect the gardens, the surrounding communities and the integrity of the governing agencies.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 11:29:40 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Ian Kelley**
Zip: **11205-4001**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Botanic Garden will be adversely affected by lack of sunlight if this project continues. I cannot believe anyone would think this is a good idea. The Garden is a public amenity unrivaled in the area and one I have been going to visit since I was a child. My children also grew up going there as did everyone I know in the area. My wife is a landscape architect and is equally opposed. It will ruin the Garden if allowed.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 10:15:22 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Zerrin Cetin**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Brooklyn Botanical Garden is such an important community resource and haven. It is a source of refuge for me, my friends, and countless community members in Southern Brooklyn. I would like to share my support in opposing this development for the negative effects that it will have on the Gardens and therefore, our precious community. Thank you for your consideration.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 9:36:28 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Rima Fand**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **Rima Fand**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a treasure in our community, and the proposed building at 960 Franklin Ave will have devastating and irreparable effects. It is imperative that this building project be stopped.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Monday, August 2, 2021 at 7:04:51 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Allison Hollihan**

Zip: **11216**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Hello, I implore you not to approve the proposed development and rezoning at 960 Franklin Ave. Doing so will negatively impact the Brooklyn Botanical Garden (BBG) and destroy beautiful foliage and rare species contained within. I live in Brooklyn and treasure going to the Botanical garden throughout the year. It is a necessary respite and educational/learning experience for me and my family. It allows for us to escape the intensity of the city and visiting supports our mental health and emotional well-being (especially during the pandemic). Park options NW of the garden, where we live are slim. And there are certainly no options like the Botanical Garden. We need the Botanical Garden as is, not a diminished version. I also work for a non-profit that works with children and families. The Botanical Garden has donated many passes to families in our programs who cannot afford to attend otherwise. The garden is a refuge for all New Yorkers, even those who are not members. Please do not diminish this public treasure and destroy nature in order to build housing- there are plenty of other sites where these developers can build and profit. Sincerely, Allison Hollihan Brooklyn, NY

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Monday, August 2, 2021 at 4:55:19 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Mary Farrington**
Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Rezoning will wreak havoc on the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The Garden was a refuge for many of throughout the pandemic. It is a source of tranquility and beauty that the City needs to maintain.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Monday, August 2, 2021 at 12:39:24 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Roberta Belulovich**

Zip: **10038**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Dear Commissioners: I was born and raised in Brooklyn, in walking distance of the BBG, and spent almost every day of my pre-school years there and in Prospect Park. Having those green spaces made my childhood a joy and they remain among my most treasured memories. Though I currently live in Manhattan, I am a member of the BBG and go there every chance I get. During the pandemic, it was the first place I ran to when things opened up. It is an invaluable resource for children and adults and brings in tourists, kudos, and money from all over the world. Why do we not treasure our open public spaces? Why do we leave them prey to the greed of developers who lie, as these have, and pretend they care about affordable housing when there would be, in fact, no housing affordable to the current locals? The commission protected this public space in 1991 along with then-Mayor David Dinkins, and deserves no less consideration in 2021. I respectfully implore you to save the BBG, the Jackie Robinson playground, and Medgar Evers College from this monstrous proposal. I will thank you, the environment will thank you, and future generations who will benefit from the BBG will thank you. Sincerely and hopefully yours, Roberta A. Belulovich

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Monday, August 2, 2021 at 11:49:57 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Christina Macchiarola**
Zip: **11201**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I am a member of the community and member of the BBG.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

BBG is a staple of the community. It is a safe haven from the hustle and bustle of the city, and it is a pillar of botanic development. If our city truly wants to be a leader in climate change response, we cannot allow development to get in the way of an ecological hub. This development risks damaging the plant life of the gardens -- the same way that the development in midtown has harmed the plant life in Central Park. The last thing Brooklyn needs is yet another residential development -- let's instead invest in our community and our ecological future.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Monday, August 2, 2021 at 11:29:11 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Hugh English**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

As a long-time Brooklyn resident, I am completely dismayed by the possibility of losing a treasure such as the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Make no mistake here: the height of the proposed building allowed by this rezoning means the death of the BBG, a resource for fresh air, green space and comfort and education for millions of Brooklyn residents, NYC residents and visitors to our city. Please do not destroy our garden!

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Monday, August 2, 2021 at 10:30:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Caroline Prugh**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **My family has been members of the BBG for 17 years. We were out of town for the**

hearing on 7/29/21, but wanted to register our objection as BBG members and homeowners.

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Monday, August 2, 2021 at 9:59:32 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Mark Vargo**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Due to the environmental impact of this project I believe the height of the proposed towers should be limited so that shadows should not fall on the Brookly Botanic Garden (BBG). It is possible for the investors and developers to easily move their assets to other sites in the city. It is not possible for the BBG to move their assets at all. Sincerely Mark Vargo

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Monday, August 2, 2021 at 9:42:25 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Patrick Clair**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I represent myself and my wife, Jiyoung Lee.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I strongly oppose the rezoning at 960 Franklin Avenue. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a treasure without equal in the borough and the shadow cast by the proposed building at 960 Franklin would interfere with its beauty and present unnecessary challenges to the essential work they do. Further, the proposed rezoning and construction seems to me to have very little value to the existing community in the neighborhood. Rather, it seems to be for the benefit and financial enrichment of those who would push the existing community aside. And where will they go?

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Monday, August 2, 2021 at 8:56:06 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Amy Louise Pommier**

Zip: **11205**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I could not attend the public hearing, but I wish for my voice to be heard loud and clear on the matter of this building project. It would be a disaster for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, which is an extremely valuable resource and place for all of the surrounding communities in Brooklyn, for people all over New York City who visit and for people from all over the world who visit. This Garden is a research facility for ecology and plant life that affects the entire planet, and an educational facility for children and adults, and it would be irreparably damaged through loss of light that would result from this building project. This building must not be built in any way that would reduce the light on the Brooklyn Botanic Garden to any degree. The public good that this garden gives to the city and the world must not be damaged by any construction project.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Monday, August 2, 2021 at 8:04:09 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Alicia Ciocca**

Zip: **11201**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

We as humans are intricately entwined with nature and plant life. With the climate crisis spiraling out of control, we need to make decisions in the best interest of our planet, which we are part of. Please oppose the construction of 960 Franklin and honor the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, a respite in this city and a reminder of our humanity. I am a special education public school teacher and we need to educate our youth about the importance of nature and our interdependence on nature.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Monday, August 2, 2021 at 7:54:51 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Louis Galdieri**

Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The City Planning Commission should reject the proposed rezoning. The BBG is a public treasure. A deal made behind closed doors by some influential developers and a few corrupt local politicians should not endanger it.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Monday, August 2, 2021 at 7:48:56 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Angela Cornelius**

Zip: **11105**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

It's a disgrace to the city of NY to detract from its green spaces in this overtly capitalist way. Please do what you can do stop this and preserve the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. As a member who has had two daughters in the last 2 years, I often go to the gardens to enjoy outdoor space and so the girls can be outside and learn about different plant species and have a unique sensory and learning experience. We don't have anything else like it in NYC. It would be a detriment to our community to recklessly allow a building to ruin the well established gardens. Not to mention a waste of all the resources that have gone into making the gardens what it is today.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Monday, August 2, 2021 at 12:41:51 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Andrea Wolper**

Zip: **11201**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

It's impossible for me to understand why this proposal wasn't rejected from the outset. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is an Eden in our borough. It has historic value, cultural value. It's the place I go when I need respite from the intensity of city life, and as soon as take a few steps in, I feel my entire self begin to unwind. I have favorite flowers and favorite trees there - I think of them as friends I love to visit. The shadows that will be cast on the garden and on nearby playgrounds by the proposed Continuum luxury tower will irrevocably damage the garden and the quality of life for those who visit and for the people who live in the neighborhood. The idea that a huge tower should loom of this neighborhood and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden is simply unacceptable.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 6:11:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Allison Lambert**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

• **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Dear Commission Members: I oppose the rezoning efforts to place two 39 story towers so close to the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. The BBG is a vital community resource and green space for the people of Brooklyn, and it's ability to continue to cultivate a love of nature in the next generation of Brooklynites should not be hampered. The BBG represents the best of Brooklyn- responsible stewardship of our precious resources through a commitment to local and native species, composting, farming of vegetables, and studying climate change. Furthermore, 39 story towers in this area would be very out of character to the neighborhood and surrounding areas and developers of mega projects are not the path to affordable housing. There are better paths that do not sacrifice sunlight or another beloved institution that allows people of all incomes to enjoy the gardens in the name of big development. Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 5:00:49 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Ronney Berinstein**

Zip: **10021**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **Against building on Franklin Ave.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Building a high rise on Franklin Ave. will destroy the sunlight at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden...it shouldn't be built.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 3:54:23 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Amanda Walker**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Rezoning 960 Franklin Ave and allowing a towering residential building to be built would have a serious impact on the nearby Brooklyn Botanical Garden. I've been a member of BBG for over a decade and it's a jewel in the Brooklyn community, an oasis of plants and greenery that has provided a calming respite in a busy city for myself and countless others. Please don't allow one new residential tower to devastate a century-old living outdoor museum.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 2:59:34 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Holly Rothkopf**

Zip: **33437**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I may have submitted comments before, I do not recall doing so. I am opposed to this rezoning. The zoning in place is there to protect the Brooklyn Botanic Garden - not only a New York treasure, but an American treasure. It would be a travesty to deprive this Garden of the sunlight required for current operations.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 2:47:17 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Anita Goss**

Zip: **11201**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden has been a precious part of my and my family's lives for over 60 years. The destruction of its beauty and importance to Brooklyn and New York City would be an incomparable loss for generations to come. Developing high rise buildings which will cut off the sunlight so necessary to the growth of the plants in the Garden is an act of villainous vandalism.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 1:31:11 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Nancy Corey**

Zip: **11201**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

This project is bordering on unlawful. It takes away an essential resource - sunlight - not only for the BBG but for the community. It is time to stop letting developers ruin our communities, our city and our lives. On behalf of Brooklyn and common sense, please this rezoning proposal.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 12:10:19 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Leah Moore**

Zip: **11203**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am a long-time member of the Brooklyn Botanical garden because it is the only public green space near me that is quiet, safe and provides a plethora of plants and flowers that nourishes me on many levels. This proposed 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning threatens the Brooklyn Botanical garden's conservatory and greenhouse complex because it will significantly reduce the sunlight it receives. There is only one Brooklyn Botanical Garden and I believe it's diverse greenery should be protected at all costs. I oppose this 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning and urge you to reject it.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 10:22:53 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Keltha McAulay**

Zip: **10033**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Hello. As a long-time visitor to the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, who also brings out of town visitors, I am dismayed that a building variance is being considered to allow a height that will harm, if not destroy, a part of this NYC treasure. We have too few green spaces as it is, and with all the environmental costs of losing any of them, why would we even consider harming such an iconic and important part of our city? We have given too much power to the real estate lobby and need to be more forward thinking on this matter. This would put more money in the pockets of this developer, while causing irreparable harm to the rest of us. Thank you. Keltha McAulay

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 6:37:15 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Mela Brandt**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Anything that curtails the natural sunlight to the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens is criminal....do not destroy this paradise-Brooklyn has so few natural wonders....

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 4:13:24 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **IVAN IVANOV**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

When the Brooklyn botanical garden was built, there was a reason for not allowing high buildings in the neighbourhood. The reason is still valid. This project will destroy part of the garden. The neighbourhood is already over populated and the infrastructure has no capacity for thousands of new residents. It needs a better infrastructure, new schools, transportation, parking space, playgrounds.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 12:39:28 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Elaine Dellinger**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

I am deeply opposed to the development on Franklin Avenue. The damage to a cultural institution and the community by blocking crucial sunlight exposure to the botanic garden would be a irreparable mistake and loss.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 10:46:29 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Heather Troup**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Please do not allow this project to be built. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a unique cultural institution and much-needed oasis. For twenty years I have visited the garden, along with what I would guess is the most diverse multi-cultural group of patrons - young and old of different races, ethnicities and religions. We go for the calm, the beauty and the sunlight (for those of us who don't have outdoor space or much sunlight in our own apartments). I'm shocked that this wasn't denied immediately for endangering such an important part of our community. Please deny this and don't entertain further building that would endanger the garden for those of us who need it.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 8:28:06 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Doris Hoyer**
Zip: **12118**

I represent:
• **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**
If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am a 79 yo Brooklynite living now in upstate NY. As a child I was introduced to BBG on class trips from PS 9. I was privileged to learn about gardening and plants. I was given the opportunity to plant and bring home a potted plant to care for. Please keep the gardens flourishing with the sunlight needed to grow. Do not allow this building to block the sun from the Botanical Gardens.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 6:39:18 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Eric Lewis**

Zip: **11233**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanical Garden saved my family and relationship when it opened during the height of the COVID-19 panic. I often take my significant other and family there to this day. Our three year old loves it, especially on Wednesday when we can stay there until 8:30 pm. Approving this project would be in disapproval of my three years olds chase of the sun going down on Wednesday nights. I hope you all will consider my our and our family's desire - protect BBG.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 6:13:49 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Peter A Jacobson**

Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **A concerned citizen.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Very concerned about the effect of the 960 Franklin project on the ability for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. I am sure you've heard from many others. Surely there are other sites to develop affordable housing that don't compromise the integrity of one of the finest cultural resources in the entire city. Thanks kindly.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 5:58:05 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Susan Abdulezer**

Zip: **11201**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanical Garden is a refuge and resource for the entire community and is in danger of being a victim of runaway development. I fought against commercial development of the Brooklyn Heights waterfront in the 1980's and now there is an amazing park serving the world. Listen to the community, it makes life better and improves the economy for all, not just a connected few.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 5:20:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Andy Ituarte**

Zip: **11691**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Dear Sir/Madam, I am against the 960 Franklin Rezoning because there were several studies showing the harmful effects of the rezoning on the BBG, namely blocking the sunlight & destroying the plants & flowers. We must protect the Gardens for future generations so they can enjoy the beauty we have always enjoyed. Please do not pass the 960 Franklin Ave Rezoning. €1

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 5:13:22 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Isabel Sanchez**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Deplorable idea

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 4:39:26 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Koren Volk**

Zip: **11201**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I strongly oppose this project because of the detrimental impact it will have on the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 3:39:25 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Emily Relva-Alifano**

Zip: **11203**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a place of peace and wonder. You must know what effect sunlight has on plants and can recognize the massive change this project will cause to the garden's environment. These plants are mature, well established, and show decades of work and care. This building will destroy the life's work of many skilled gardeners and botanists and deface their artistry.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 3:09:40 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the

public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Sid Kramer**

Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

No private shadows cast on public parks.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 2:58:32 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Stephen Palmer**
Zip: **19971**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **Mr.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am not a resident of the city yet I have had a number of opportunities to come and enjoy the beauty of the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens which is a peaceful oasis in the midst of a major urban area. The multiple gardens and open space in which a person may only hear traffic in the distance should not be broken up or into by another skyscraper that will hinder the sacredness of open space just for profit to whom? certainly not the populous who come to enjoy natural beauty.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 2:37:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Elizabeth McClure**
Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Before the Department of City Planning votes on the re-zoning application for 960 Franklin Avenue in Brooklyn, I am asking you to consider the memo dated December 19, 2019 from David Cuff of The City of New York Department of Parks and Recreation outlining the significant adverse effects on natural resources in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden resulting from the proposed rezoning. The memo states: "NYC Parks does not agree with the assessment presented in the Natural Resource Chapter that concludes there would be no significant adverse impacts to natural resources present in BBG from project-generated shadows. NYC Parks asserts that there would be a significant adverse impact to natural resources as a result of the proposed project; thus, the project would lead to a significant adverse open space impact, as BBG is considered an open space resource." Please consider this issue before voting on this application. Our public green spaces are precious to us. This proposed development would adversely impact not only its immediate neighbors in Brooklyn, but all New York City residents and visitors from throughout the world. The over

18,500 varieties of plants, including both rare and native species, would be imperiled by the shadows generated by the proposed project. I implore you to vote against the proposed rezoning at 960 Franklin Avenue considering the potentially devastating impacts of this project on the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and nearby open spaces.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 2:11:51 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Karen Ostrowski**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am opposed to 960 Franklin Ave Rezoning proposal. If approved, this project would cause irreparable harm to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and, as a result, to the community at large.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 1:58:53 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Lynn Wirth**

Zip: **11316**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Our family began just steps away from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Prospect Park 150 years ago on Clason Avenue. Since then the Park, and soon thereafter, the BBG have been cherished and of priceless value to individuals and families of all nationalities and walks of life. At a time in our World where all that is healthy for mind and body, especially the few gems of pure and beautiful nature that dot our biggest cities, seems to be in jeopardy, the very last thing we should be discussing is adding to this with yet another new oversized building. Yes, there is a need for new and affordable housing and such buildings are welcome where they don't endanger already fragile and increasingly small parcels of nature that provide mentally and physically healthy escapes from the everyday loud, dirty and hectic city life. It is unthinkable to us that any developer would even consider jeopardizing such places in any way. No amount of money could replace the value and history of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Please vote "No" to this

Franklin Ave. rezoning project. Thank you. Lynn Wirth and family

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 1:21:48 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Melissa Morrone**

Zip: **11218**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am writing to state my opposition to the proposed rezoning of 960 Franklin Avenue. I live in Brooklyn and have worked at Brooklyn Public Library for almost 20 years, so I've long enjoyed our fellow "Heart of Brooklyn" institution. The zoning put in place in 1991, specifically to protect the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's conservatory from shadows, should remain. Affordable housing and healthy green space are both key to our city's thriving, but this project would not bring either. Regarding the BBG, the proposed development would block sunlight and compromise the Garden's collections, including endangered orchids and hundreds-year-old bonsais. Indeed, reducing sunlight to the conservatory complex threatens the entirety of the collection because plants for every part of the Garden are propagated and grown there. The BBG also engages in education projects such as free year-round STEM instruction to

Brooklyn's young people, and the rezoning would damage these efforts as well. For all of these reasons I am opposed to this development project.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 12:19:19 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Davod Goldman**

Zip: **10520**

I represent:

- **Other**

Details for "I Represent": **My wife and I who lived in zip code 11215 for over twenty-five years.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Developments have many possible locations, but there is only one Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. It's that simple. Any encroachment on their sun space now will encourage more in the future. This proposed development alone will be a severe detriment to the plant life that is such a historic, natural treasure to the people of Brooklyn, New York City, our country and the world. Some things just have to be allowed to live. In this age of Covid, our people need the unencumbered wide-open spaces more than ever. Our collective spirit needs to be nurtured, not just the wallets of a hand-picked few. Always keep in mind how we lost Penn Station decades ago and what an irretrievable loss that turned out to be for NYC's legacy. My wife and I got married in the Botanical Gardens and lived in Park Slope for

over a quarter of a century. This year is our 31st anniversary; don't dampen our upcoming celebrations with a deeply misguided approval of such a catastrophic project as the 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 12:13:33 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Chance Krempasky**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am a Brooklyn resident and am writing to express my OPPOSITION to the 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning proposal that would have devastating effects on BBG and nearby open spaces, including Jackie Robinson Playground and Medgar Evers College. I stand in support of community green space and resources over developments such as this one.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 11:53:45 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **sharon bailey**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

the BBG is a jewel and beyond price...enough real estate greed in this town

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 11:50:16 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Haley Ray**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Please please please don't choose development over community and green space. Protecting the Brooklyn Botanic Garden is and will be more important in hindsight than allowing this building project to go forward. It's not just about what the garden provides and does, but about what we want this neighborhood to be and what we want its future to look like. We've watched other neighborhoods lose their character and spirit due to unnecessarily aggressive development. Please don't let that happen here.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 11:48:38 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Lucy Redmond**
Zip: **11218**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I am a frequent user of the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **Yes**

Additional Comments:

This project will cast a shadow on the Brooklyn Botanic Garden that will kill a huge part of the garden, including the Greenhouse. The BBG serves people of Brooklyn and the entire city bringing them nature, education and enrichment. I am 65 years old and I have been going there since I was a child and it is a resource the city can't afford to lose. We do need housing, but not luxury condos that destroy the environment for the benefit of realtors and the wealthy. We need affordable human size housing that supports the community. That support should include bringing green spaces and beauty for all Brooklynites, not just the select few.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 11:48:01 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Amanda Annis**
Zip: **11226**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I strongly oppose the 960 Franklin Re-zoning. Preserving green spaces is the simplest and impactful way to protect our city from climate change. This project will have devastating consequences throughout the community, with profound negative impacts on the Brooklyn Botanical Garden & it's vital collection of plants and trees. Our city must focus on restoring the carbon cycle to protect us all, not fulfill the financial incentives of a few.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 11:22:01 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Mary Heintjes**
Zip: **11205**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I have gone to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden since I was assigned a project as a college student at Pratt Institute in 1975 to draw the exotic and extraordinary plants and wildlife in the garden. The awareness that with care and sunlight this amazing place could exist in the city. The garden maximized the space and sunlight to make this amazing garden happen. I am a garden volunteer and I worked in the shade garden along 1000 for years trying to keep it looking good and realized how different the plants were there as opposed to areas of sunlight and the nursery, Water

garden, Rose, Japanese pond garden. There was no comparison in the quality of the plants that were in the sun as opposed to the ones that were growing in the shade. Please do not build these sun blocking structures near the garden.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 10:30:44 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Julianne Zaleta**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I represent myself with the full support of 6/15 Green Community Garden**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Please don't allow greed to cast permanent shade on one of the greatest botanical gardens in the world. It's a preposterous plan, one that would make a few people richer and the general population of Brooklyn a great deal poorer.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 10:14:59 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **carol sanjour**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **My husband and myself**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

To the members of the City Council: I have lived in Brooklyn all my life. The Brooklyn Botanic Gardens have provided a beautiful respite from city living. From the 1960s we have worked, along with Shirley Chisholm among others, to preserve the nature of this borough as a place of diverse, community neighborhoods. My husband in the early nineties became a partner of the Prospect Park Stables to keep riding alive in Brooklyn. If we lose the specialness we

have, then we yet again sacrifice humanity to greed.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 9:41:39 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Mary Ann Fastook**

Zip: **10282**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **private citizen**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am totally opposed to a project that would cut down the sunlight needed for the plants of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden as well as for the people who live in that neighborhood. These buildings don't benefit ordinary people; they benefit the builder and developer. Most of these buildings are three-quarters empty. Don't do this.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 9:41:31 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **David Goddy**
Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I live in the Prospect Park area and visit the Botanic Garden, Museum and Library frequently.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

I strongly urge the Commission to reject this rezoning proposal -- and thereby preserve the sunlight and protect from degradation the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, which is a world-class botanic garden that serves a broad, diverse, and

ungentrified constituency.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 9:17:07 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Sonia Valentin**

Zip: **11228**

I represent:

- **A local community group or organization**

Details for "I Represent": **benson ave. block association**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

we cannot allow any developers to infringe on our beloved bbg, nearby open spaces, as well as medgar evers college, and jackie robinson playground. we want to leave a legacy for our children of beautiful foliage, trees, and green

space. sunlight that is blocked from our spaces will not allow plant species to thrive and they will die. we also need sunlight that makes vitamin D for healthy skin. pls DO NOT approve Application Number: C 200184 ZMK, Project: 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 8:38:05 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **David Vining**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

BBG is too important to the community, and my family! Do not risk any part of BBG by rezoning!

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 8:27:17 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Shayne Dutkiewicz**
Zip: **11201**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a world class institution and a treasure for the city. The shadows the proposed

construction at 960 Franklin Avenue would throw on its conservatories and nurseries would ruin them. I can't think of a more irresponsible thing for the city to do than allow the project to move forward. We need more nature in this city, more quiet places to escape. We certainly can't afford to endanger one of the few spaces we do have just to benefit a developer. There is no so-called "affordable" housing argument strong enough to justify what we'll lose. Since becoming a BBG member I've come to know just how important it is, especially for a city dweller, to take time in nature, to watch the seasons change, to observe how the earth blooms and breaths and perseveres. We live in the age of climate change and we must all have a touchstone that reminds us to protect this beautiful, lush world we have. The BBG is that place for the residents of Brooklyn, and indeed the wider city as a whole. It must also be a touchstone for the members of the planning commission, because it is incumbent upon you to be the architects of a greener city moving forward. The age of profiteer development must now give way to an era of transformation that places preservation of the earth and sustainability as its core principle. How you decide on this matter will determine whether you are the leaders we need. Please do the right thing and choose to protect the garden. You will be doing the city, its residents, and the Earth a huge service. Disallow the proposed development at 960 Franklin Avenue to move forward. Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 7:57:51 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Sara Dima**
Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**
- **A local business**

Details for "I Represent": **I own a small business on Vanderbilt Avenue in Prospect Heights, R and D Foods. I am also a local resident. My spouse and I raise our children here.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

Guarding institutions like BBG from encroaching development is our duty as New Yorkers. New York is a dynamic and ever-changing city, it should and always will be different one day, one year and one decade from the next. At the same time, we must recognize the institutions and organizations that feed our souls as urban dwellers. Going to the garden and experiencing the beauty and peace it provides our borough is a rite of passage for children and adults alike. The city's choices to approve developments that ignore the communities they break ground in will be our failure. As a business owner I support development, commerce and change but always with measure and thought for the surrounding community, for the folks that you serve and for those that came before and will come after. Please vote against 960 Franklin.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 7:19:18 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Joanne Dillon**
Zip: **11209**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The proposed development at 960 Franklin Avenue is just plain wrong. It's much too big for the residential area, and its impact will be detrimental. Too many people, too many cars and too long a shadow cast over the entire area, especially the much loved Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, which are an oasis of beauty in Brooklyn. Please do not allow this development to move forward!

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 5:21:11 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Emily Lallo**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Strongly oppose this project as it will have devastating effect on the Brooklyn botanical garden and nearby open spaces. Please do not pass this.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 2:24:49 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **peter nicolson**

Zip: **DA14 4JU**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **a tourist ...**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Ecology and the natural environment is increasingly in the public eye .. visitors to NewYork are attracted to BBG is a unique example of what can be done and is a World Class resource and needs recognition and protection. Its also just a great tourist attraction.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 12:59:49 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Patrice Gaujean**

Zip: **11203**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **Just a concern citizen**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am urging the city planning commission to not only vote *NO* on this project, but to call a time out *ALL* building projects around Brooklyn. We are losing our Brooklyn character to these greedy developers who care *nothing* about our neighborhoods and whose only goal is to turn Brooklyn into another over price and over crowded Manhattan. Worse yet, I am deeply distress that the commission would even consider sacrificing BBG for another unnecessary building of this size. For the good of BBG and all of Brooklyn, please, please vote *NO* on the 960 Franklin Avenue project!

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 12:08:27 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Mary Buchwald**

Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I have been a resident of Brooklyn since approximately 1969. I am a current member of Brooklyn Botanic Garden. I am a member of MTOPP (Member to Protect the People).**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The 1991 zoning protections for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden stipulated limiting development to a maximum of 7 stories. Those protections should be respected by the current City Planning Commission. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a national, state and NYC treasure. Reducing sunlight will willfully destroy the lifeline of BBG. The developers continue to lie and manipulate: denying the 1991 protections for BBG; reducing the number of stories from 34 to 17 which is still harmful thus showing their continuous indifference to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's need for adequate sunlight exposure. There should be no compromise by the City Planning Commission on this issue of protecting the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Respecting horticultural science should be the prime consideration and not affordable housing. Respectfully submitted, Mary Buchwald

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 11:48:20 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Barbara Charton**
Zip: **11201**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I live in Brooklyn at 1 Grace Court. I have always lived here and have been going to the Garden since I was old enough to walk there. My children grew up in the Children's Garden**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The proposed buildings are enormous, over large for the neighborhood and ugly. Whatever good their presence might have is negated by the harm their presence would create. Their existence would impact adversely an existing municipal gem - the Garden. Should "do no harm" be a guiding to what gets built? The Garden is more than a beautiful place. Visitors make it a destination. They come to Brooklyn to see this Garden which is the only large open area in Crown Heights. There is no significant public park for blocks east of Washington Avenue. The Garden is it! It should be augmented, not hemmed in by truly indifferent construction.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 11:41:58 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Sarah Gallagher**

Zip: **10065**

I represent:

- **A local community group or organization**

Details for "I Represent": **Upper Green Side**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Here on the Upper East Side we have our own struggle with a proposed giant building which would shade one of the area's few parks... A park vastly less cultivated than the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Still, outrageously out-of-scale building proposals and the struggle to maintain access to sunlight for the health of both plants and persons is a common cause. Lots of places to site super-sized structures. Not so existing parks. Vote this proposed, destructive building down and out.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 11:06:26 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Bradford Swanson**

Zip: **11205**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I just wanted to share my concerns around the proposed rezoning of this property. Given the negative impacts this could have on the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Jackie Robinson Playground and Medgar Evers College, I hope the commission will reconsider what is appropriate for the long term health and well being of this part of our community. Thank you

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 10:46:51 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Lisa Rosado**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The gardens is unique because it is a live museum that is home to plants from around the world . It is a place of beauty as well as a place of learning . I have taken classes as an adult and have also taken my third grade class for the past 20 years . With the pandemic the gardens was even more important . It was a place you could be surrounded by nature and have hope for a better tomorrow . These plants do not have a voice . If they did they would shout from the top of their lungs to fight for their lives . We are their voices and we need people to listen. This is their home . They cannot move and survive ! Your buildings can!

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 10:45:23 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **meg mazzeo**

Zip: **11231**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I oppose this project as bad precedent & bad policy. The height & bulk is significantly out of scale with this longterm, existing neighborhood. it's shadows will negatively impact BBG and nearby open spaces, including Jackie Robinson Playground and Medgar Evers College. the "benefits" of "affordable housing" are greatly exaggerated. It will accelerate gentrification, raising rents in the surrounding areas, pushing out longterm low & moderate renters. this proposal only benefits the developers, who build & leave. Turn the location over to experienced non-profit housing developers, such as The Fifth Avenue Committee.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 10:32:38 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Elizabeth Griffith**

Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Please don't allow this rezoning that would limit sunlight to the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. There are and always will be many, many luxury condo projects in Brooklyn and only one Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. The plantings and especially the greenhouse plants are all appropriate to the amount of sunlight and shade they receive. Changing sunny areas to shady ones will stress and even kill the plants and it's not as if the conservatory gardens can be resituated, or sun-filled desert habitats turned into shady desert habitats. Please don't let developer greed ruin one of Brooklyn's most valuable and loved public attractions. It would be great damage to a civic jewel, just to make one development company richer. I love the BBG enough to be a member - it is close to my heart and I care a lot that it be kept safe. Thank you for your time, Elizabeth Griffith

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 10:26:26 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Linda Kelly**

Zip: **11694-1144**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I was born and spent many years of my life in Brooklyn.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is over a hundred years old. We are entrusted with its care for our children and grandchildren. Please do allow greedy developers to destroy our precious heritage. The Garden is the heart and soul of that area of Brooklyn. This monstrous development will affect quality of life for all who live and work nearby.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 9:46:36 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Amelia Holstrom**

Zip: **11226**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I oppose this project. Brooklyn Botanical Gardens is a critical community resource and needs to be preserved. This rezoning endangers the continued thriving of an invaluable community space.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 9:17:43 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Edward Greenfield**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

If the applicant had reviewed the background for development at this location they would have understood that because of the potential for significant adverse impact on adjacent Brooklyn Botanical Garden facilities high towers are not appropriate at this sensitive location. The Planning Commission explicitly recommended that low-density, low-rise structures would be appropriate for future development. The applicant has chosen to propose the opposite of the Commission's guidance.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 8:43:34 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Matthew Lorenzoni**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The neighborhood is no place for high rises. This is not downtown Brooklyn or Manhattan. Build something modest that fits the neighborhood. The disregard for the residents and garden in favor of profits from this developer shows how disconnected they are.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 8:33:45 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Sharon Cohen**

Zip: **11229**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I'm opposed to erecting a towering building that would put much of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in shade. I'm a longtime member, as were my parents, and the beautiful garden is an important part of our lives, and many other families. It's a wonderful tourist attraction. Nothing should be allowed to ruin any part of Brooklyn's crowning jewel, certainly not an outsized building that doesn't fit the neighborhood.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 8:31:09 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Melanie Monios**

Zip: **11218**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

As a member and lover of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and one who respects all precious green spaces in NYC, I am writing to express my opposition to rezoning that would negatively impact the Garden and the thousands of people who benefit from it annually. BBG is a beautiful sanctuary and vital place that cultivates an appreciation of nature in people of all ages. We the people need every inch of that garden so much more than a new tall residential building that will cast harmful shadows literally and figuratively over the BBG. Greenery over greed please. Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 8:27:17 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Richard Barber**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

If you approve this rezoning you will have made a decision that will be remembered for generations as a strikingly destructive, shortsighted, and foolish one - a decision that has an irremediable negative impact on the community and the residents of the city. The Botanic Garden is a living miracle, a lovingly, expertly-tended oasis in the middle of a city where every oasis is invaluable. To cater to the short term profit motive of another real estate development at the cost of a loss of sunlight for a section of the garden can only be a cause of shame for anyone with the power to make that happen. Please don't be part of making that decision.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 8:05:13 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Ann Schaetzel**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I am a citizen among thousands who has been lucky enough to have the Brooklyn Botanic Garden as a place of respite and education for over 50 years**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

It is hard to understand how this rezoning could even be contemplated. The idea that this unique world-renowned public institution, that has done so much for so long for the New York community, should have to fight for a commodity (LIGHT) we all need but for the Botanic Garden is a question of actual life-and-death - this is hard to fathom. What could possibly persuade the Planning Commission that another real estate enterprise has such special value that it would outweigh the indescribable value of this extraordinary research, education, recreation, and refuge of the City? Please rule against this destructive proposal!

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 7:35:58 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Ruth Moskell**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I live at 934 Carroll Street and I've lived within 4 blocks 960 Franklin for 10+ years. I am a member of the garden and I visit multiple times per week. I do not want to see this project go forth. I find it upsetting that this project has not already been canned. As a member of the community, I do not see how this would be beneficial to the neighborhood in any way. It is entirely too big for the area, and it does not benefit anyone who lives here. This side of eastern parkway is much less gentrified than the northern side, and I think it's important to slow the spread. I cant imagine what 1000+ new neighbors will do here. I've discussed this with other people in my building and they feel the same way. We don't understand why any building projects have to be of this magnitude especially when it's grossly out of proportion with everything else here. The proposed affordable housing is a absolute joke and feels out of proportion with the gross median income projections I've seen for the neighborhood. As a lover of the garden, this project would ruin one of the most special places in the city. I love the garden, it is my happy place. COVID really put into perspective the importance of quality green space and I believe that it is essential to maintain it. It has helped me immensely with my mental and physical health. I am a birdwatcher and I am amazed by the biodiversity of species I find there. As a lover of nature, I'm amazed by watching all the way the seasons change. The more time I spend there, the more I understand how incredibly special it is. It would be an absolute travesty to ruin this place because of the greed of developers. Every time I've shown the map of the projected shadows to people, they have been horrified, especially fellow Brooklynites. I have asked all of my friends and family to sign the garden's petition. The garden is over 100 years old. Let it be! KEEP THIS PROJECT OUT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD, NO ONE WHO LIVES HERE WANTS IT HERE.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 7:27:14 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Zachary Collins**
Zip: **11226**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

I grew up in Brooklyn, and I've lived nearby my whole life here. The Brooklyn Botanic gardens has been a part of my life throughout every phase of my life. As a child, I spent days there with my Mom, skirting the people she's of e Japanese Garden looking for Godzilla the giant snapping turtle. On weekends, I attended youth programs, where I learned to grow my own produce, tending my small plot along with many other young Brooklynites. Through my adult life the Garden has been a place to get away from the hustle of life in New York, and this has been doubly true during the difficult times of this Pandemic. The idea that the city would permit a reopening that would block the sunlight of a place to at is such a constant source of good, joy, peace, and education is utterly reprehensible. City government has for too long allowed this city to be reshaped by the imaginations and schemes of the Rich. Do the right thing, don't cripple the programs of the BBG by depriving its specimens and ground of light.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 7:02:47 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Dash Jacobs**
Zip: **11104**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I was a garden guide at the BBG and have visited the gardens many times before. I have so many memories there, I even went on a second date with my now wife there. It's a special place. I travel all over and try to visit local botanic gardens in the cities I visit. Hands down NOTHING compares to the BBG. This place is truly a gem and should be protected for all the community to enjoy. I love the place so much I used to commute down from Queens. Please don't allow any project that will jeopardize the beauty of this wonderful garden.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 7:00:48 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Angela Cutolo**

Zip: **11223**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a treasure of gardens, a retreat from the frenzy of living and working in New York City. One sits and enjoys the beauty of nature, the majestic oaks, the cherry tree esplanade, the lily ponds, the leaves of the trees rustling in the breeze, the the songs of birds in their protected environment. You can not take that away from us. It is our escape from city life. The Garden is nurtured by sunlight. We are nurtured by the Garden. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is an essential part of our lives. My family and I strongly oppose the Franklin Ave rezoning.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 6:51:56 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Douglas Fields**

Zip: **54498**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

There are many reasons why my wife and I love and visit New York City, but near the top of our list would be your world class botanical gardens. This project would seriously impact the Brooklyn Botanical Garden through shading important facilities and plantings. Surely, a different location would be more appropriate for a building of this height. Please don't sacrifice one of the things that makes your city great and draws people from around the world for yet another high-rise building.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 6:48:27 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Margo Galpin**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I would like to express my opposition to the 960 Franklin Ave Rezoning. The height of this project will cast a shadow on the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, endangering parts of its plant collections. I support the creation of affordable housing in all neighborhoods. I am not opposed to tall buildings in my neighborhood. But I DO NOT support this building in this location. The BBG is a unique and important part of our city, and one that we should protect. The BBG is an important place to me personally and to my family... and I am sure it is for so many more families in Crown Heights and beyond. Our family has been members for years... and in the years we have not been able to afford membership we have enjoyed the open days. We love to explore the plant collections. We look forward to and mark our calendar with different plants blooming - when the magnolias bloom, when the cherry trees "snow", when the bluebells bloom for mothers day. We love the events and picnics... we look forward to the plant sale, the cherry blossom festival and the chili pepper festival. When my first son was born we would take him to the greenhouses all winter and say "this is what summer will feel like, this is what the desert will feel like." It was goofy and idealistic and helped us not go crazy as new parents in a tiny apartment. Later, when my son was in 6th grade he came up with a plan to walk home from school through the garden every Tuesday, so we could observe all of the changes of the season. My younger son and I would meet him at the entrance on Eastern Parkway, and then we would wander through the garden together until we exited on Flatbush and Empire. It was a special year that I will always treasure. I'm not sure what else to say. Just again that I'm not opposed to rezoning in general.... but I am opposed to it specifically at 960 Franklin and anywhere that would endanger the garden. Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 6:35:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Cristina Munoz**
Zip: **07047**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

The BBG is one of the best botanic gardens. The garden improves the Brooklyn community and it is enjoyed by all types of people regarding their social status. The Brooklyn parks are not as well conserved as the garden. If that project will destroy the plants inside the garden then it is a horrible project.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 6:31:26 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Aimée DuPont**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**
- **A local business**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The devastating effects this proposed project would have on the Brooklyn Botanic Garden are numerous and far-reaching. It is an essential part of the fabric of this community. It's a green space where I and other parents have brought our babies countless times, it's a community gathering space for art and activism, and it's an essential safe place of solace for a community reeling from a pandemic.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 6:27:46 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Rochelle Rubin**

Zip: **11230**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Please consider Quality of Life. The rezoning will hurt the most beautiful piece of land in Brooklyn that brings light and life to the community and hundreds of thousands that come to visit. The neighborhood is dense enough, how much more can a crowded neighborhood endure? Please stop the rezoning, keep our garden growing.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 6:25:41 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Sara Frischer**

Zip: **06784**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am opposed to the proposed project. I am a member of the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. I grew up in Woodhaven, Queens the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens was an important part of my family history. My father was born in Brooklyn and he took us to the gardens frequently. I just spoke to one of his surviving friends who shared that as children they attended frequently. The proposed development does more harm than good. Based on all the testimony given the developers definition of affordable housing is not inline with the household income for the majority of residents in the area. Why allow this development destroy the BBG? For over a hundred years the garden has inspired, educated and been a safe haven for people in Brooklyn and the surrounding are. PLEASE, Do not allow the quality of life for the people of Crown Heights, and the Gardens to be destroyed. Now more than ever Think not of Green Dollars but Greenery in the form of plants and help allow the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens Continue as the National Treasure which it is. Thank you Sara Frischer

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 6:15:01 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **wendy barron**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The BBG is a cultural and environmental treasure. It is unique and can't be replaced or relocated unlike the building project. I have lived in Park slope for over 30 years and the BBG was one of the things that drew me here and kept me here. I brought my daughter from when she was a baby and we spent many happy hours exploring and learning and joining events. Now, at 18, she goes with her friends, Please preserve it for her children and the generations beyond.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 6:12:45 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL
Attachments: Paul_Borchard_960 Franklin.pdf

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Paul Borchard**
Zip: **10017**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Please see the attached letter detailing my opposition to the 960 Franklin Avenue development.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 6:08:32 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Barbara Kass**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Please block this project. We need sunlight and we need our gardens not a new bldg that block out the sun BBG needs. We raised our kids here and the gardens were a mainstay of our community life

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 6:02:03 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Paul Kali**

Zip: **11232**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **BBG member and gardening enthusiast**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

As a homeowner who has recently lost most of his light I strongly object to this project. It is well past time that we start listening to the science. Eliminating light to the garden will have an everlasting impact on our environment in terms of lost oxygen emissions from lost plants and additional carbon dioxide emissions from all the cars this project will bring into the neighborhood.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 5:56:02 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Alyson Jensen**

Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project?

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

The 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning proposal would have devastating effects on the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and nearby open spaces, including Jackie Robinson Playground and Medgar Evers College.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 5:49:55 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Zachary Thacher**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I live off of Franklin Avenue a few blocks from the proposed building.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I live in Crown Heights and love visiting the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. I also enjoy the relatively smaller buildings that give this neighborhood a really pleasant community vibe. Having a developer get around zoning destroys the whole point of zoning: to keep a character of a neighborhood, and to block self-centered projects that would have a negative impact, like blocking like on a cherished NYC asset: a major botanical garden. The building would be better off if it stuck to the zoning and was smaller. If not, it shouldn't happen. Thank you for your time.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 5:37:14 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Cynthia Spencer**

Zip: **11218**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

I strongly oppose the rezoning proposal that would negatively impact for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG) which is a precious and valued place of education and refuge for the entire community, and also for the all-too-rare open sunny spaces that serve the local community, families, children and young adults, such as the Jackie Robinson Playground and other plazas and open spaces in the area, including Medgar Evers College. The proposal is not consistent with the context of the neighborhood and would have permanent negative affects. The current cap on building height should be left in place to preserve the quality of the neighborhood, and to protect the plants and environment of the BBG, and retain the sunlight for all the open spaces in the area. Please reject this proposal. Thank you

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 5:27:19 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Barbara Lester**

Zip: **12424**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am a community gardener in Bed-Stuy as well as a homeowner with gardens in my front and back yards. Although it is common sense and basic science, I am protesting the construction of high rise buildings on Franklin Ave because of the impact the shadows will have on The Botanic Garden. These gardens serve the people in so many ways as well as providing help to community gardeners. Any construction that would impact the BBG would effect all New Yorkers in the long run. This would be destroying some of the history of our city.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 5:24:54 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Charlotte Thorp**

Zip: **11201**

I represent:

- **Myself**
- **Other**

Details for "I Represent": **neighbors on Henry, Congress Hts and Verandah Place**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Tall buildings or a beautiful garden? Surely there is no contest! It would be UNCONSCIONABLE to rezone this parcel so that a tall building would throw a shadow on the BBGarden and do HARM to its plantings and activities. The Garden is a haven to untold numbers of people. It is a beloved TREASURE that deserves to be protected and defended. The developer knew the limits that laws placed on the height of his proposed buildings, and yet he is trying to INVEIGLE the city to make an exception for him. This is greedy and despicable. Here's WHAT HE SHOULD DO: take a loss. Then, to save face, he should hire a renowned architect to design a world-class, gorgeous 7-story building! Tadao Ando, perhaps? Then his reputation as a rapacious reprobate might be salvaged. YES to the Garden. NO to the rezoning.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 5:15:13 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Jenna Sherman**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

If it is not clear by now that this rezoning **MUST** be opposed, I don't know what else I can say. It would be a travesty if the building was allowed to happen and the beloved and necessary Brooklyn Botanic Gardens ruined. I would lose faith in humanity. I would lose faith in my community. This cannot happen. Please do the right thing. Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 5:14:36 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Kate Fitzsimons**

Zip: **11226**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am Brooklyn voter and a member of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. I have enjoyed it for years and it is a jewel of Brooklyn. Quite frankly it is one of the things that is making me consider moving to Prospect Heights - in a properly zoned building, of course! The biological diversity and educational resources as well as beauty represented by the Botanic Garden cannot easily be replaced. Shadowing the garden would damage it vastly. Surely a zoning-appropriate shorter building, or a building a block away could also benefit the neighborhood without damaging one of the things that makes it great!

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 5:12:10 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Andy Feldman**

Zip: **11230**

I represent:

- **Other**

Details for "I Represent": **Myself, my family and my friends.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The City Planning Commission CAN NOT approve this rezoning. There is NO justification for ignoring the rules that New Yorkers put in place many years ago. The Community Board rejected the proposal. At the Borough President's Hearing it was OVERWHELMINGLY rejected. Petitioners in the tens of thousands are against it. I was not at your hearing but I understand the results were the same. Your role..."The Commission is responsible for the conduct of planning relating to the orderly growth and development of the City, including adequate and appropriate resources for the housing, business, industry, transportation, distribution, recreation, culture, comfort, convenience, health and welfare of its population." "Orderly growth" "Health & welfare of it's population" A city is composed of its people. If you are charged with "planning" for us, you cannot create disorder by going against our wishes. You cannot compromise the health and welfare of the Botanic Garden, it's visitors and it's neighbors. The developer is really only one person. The unions are made up of just a few. Those who MIGHT benefit from the "affordable housing" units are a VERY small number in relation to the city's actual housing needs. Note: my information tells me the units WILL NOT really be so "affordable". The Zoning Regulations were put in for a reason. They MUST be honored.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 5:11:35 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Guy Picciotto**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am writing to express my hopes that this proposal to rezone Franklin Ave will not be passed. The character of neighborhoods is such a delicate balance between opposing needs and I understand that but in this case I truly believe the impact on public spaces like the Botanical Gdns, the Medgar Evers College, and the surrounding playgrounds all weights heavily against this rezoning. Thank you for your consideration- Guy

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 5:07:34 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Elaine Kirsch**
Zip: **11223**

I represent:
• **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I represent every visitor who has ever come to the Botanic Garden and wishes to continue to enjoy the Garden and see all the plants and flowers bloom in the sunlight they desperately need in order to live.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

There is little enough sunlight left in Brooklyn. The Garden is one of the few places left in Brooklyn where people, adults and children, can relax and enjoy nature and learn gardening and other skills. If the planned high-rise project blocks out the light much of the garden, which is over a hundred years old, will be destroyed.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 5:02:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Janet Gottlieb**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **A lifelong New Yorker**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

In the nineties, height-restrictive zoning of the area surrounding the Brooklyn Botanic Garden was enacted, recognizing the environmental and educational value of the Garden. Nothing has changed except for the greed of the real estate interests, who think we're stupid enough to believe that these highrises will improve the affordability of Crown Heights real estate. They **will** kill much of the flora which provides us with a liveable environment and also with oxygen. The CPC must reject this proposal and any just-as-intrusive "compromises".

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:59:01 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Andrew Lawler**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I strongly oppose this rezoning as it will negatively affect the sunlight access for my neighborhood and the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. Sunlight access is crucial for our community's mental health, as well as the plant and animal ecosystem.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:56:43 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Elizabeth Doyle**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

It would be devastating to lose an open, green space in favor of more "affordable" housing that is further advancing gentrification of the Crown Heights neighborhood. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden would be greatly impacted by losing sunlight that is essential for growing and maintaining plants. The garden is part of the neighborhood's charm that would be erased by another large building development. This is also a poor solution to "affordable" housing, because the number of units that are truly affordable to people making low incomes is very few. It is an easy way to subsidize a building project and I think it is morally egregious to do so, especially when it would impact the neighborhood in such a devastating way. The vast opposition to this project has been documented. If approved, it will be made clear that the city is not in fact listening to its citizens and that local government is a ruse.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:51:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Katherine Borowitz**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am confident that I represent many community members who have been unable to attend the public hearing for the fight for sunlight. Please know that the significant numbers of folks who spoke out at the hearing are only a small percentage of all of us who care about the future of the BBG and who understand the detrimental effect of this potential rezoning, not just on the day to day health of the plants, but on the BBG's educational efforts and fundraising opportunities.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:51:55 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Yumi Narita**

Zip: **11205**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

This rezoning will have devastating effects on the green space in the neighborhood - in particular, for the Botanical Garden. I oppose a building that will be out of scope with the surrounding neighborhood. This is a slippery to slope and will only benefit the real estate developers and any Commissioners who receive kickbacks.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:50:47 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **melinda hanson**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

This project is not worth the impact on our public spaces and the BBG. I'm all for adding more housing, even tall buildings, but 34 stories is a monstrosity. We can, and should, do better.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:50:13 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the

public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Rachel Kane**

Zip: **11238-5641**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am strongly opposed to the rezoning proposal for 960 Franklin Avenue because of the negative impact it would have on the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The Garden is one of the cultural and community treasures of Brooklyn. It is a beautiful shared space, enjoyed by many thousands of people, and it should not be compromised by private development. Once a space like that is ruined it can't be brought back and that would be a devastating loss for Brooklyn and the City as a whole.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:46:27 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Julie Hurd**
Zip: **78752**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

As a member of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, I am staunchly opposed to this proposed rezoning. Along with devastating effects on the garden itself, this project would negatively impact the community by reducing sunlight, destroying plants and vegetation, producing an exorbitant strain on our electrical grid and sanitation resources, and destroying a beloved community sanctuary. As someone who has applied for affordable housing, I am personally aware at how impossible it is to jump through the hoops and qualify for affordable housing. The idea that so-called "affordable housing" is justification for this destruction is a blatant bait and switch. Affordable housing in NYC is next to impossible, with endless hoops. As someone who has gone through the process, I know similar projects that have 5-10 years set of "affordable housing" for tax breaks and the apartments are left vacant since it is so difficult to qualify. Everyone in the current apartments will be displaced, and many would make less money than the limit to live in this bloated complex. I found it disturbing that developers are acting like this is a charity operation for poor people. This is money making venture with irreparable consequences. When I attended the board meeting, I learned that out of the only 16 percent of parking spaces would be available instead of 40% and they would only be available for the "non-income limit" units. Only million dollar units would get parking? This is discriminatory and shows the vile intentions of the backers weighing the wealthier renters/owners over those who get "affordable housing." Lastly, the idea that this build brings jobs is extremely short-sighted. Instead of a temporary building projecting, the year round employment in the botanic gardens is long-term. Jeopardizing these union careers, the natural environment and the community sanctuary of the gardens would be stain on us a society. We need to value community over cash and do

what is right -- for our environment, our communities and for the generations to come. Please help us stand for what truly matters. Thank you so much for your time. Sincerely, Julie Hurd

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:45:43 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Elizabeth Rodney**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **My family and my community**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Dear city planning committee, I know it is your job to think about the future and imagine what the needs are of the people of this community. I respect that and I understand that more housing units might seem like the best choice at this moment, but without beauty, parks and playgrounds what is the attraction factor of a city? It's the BBG and the playgrounds that create the neighborhood and the desirability to live there. This is the desire that will lock and secure a better future for all residents of the area. My children and I walk next to your development zone every single day and I know you have a vision for the future with tall buildings but what they need is sunlight, gardens and beauty. Thank you for hearing my concerns this is a pivotal juncture in this neighborhood, imagine if you were the developer that blocked sunlight from BBGs for years to come.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:44:28 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Peter Nickman**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I am a neighborhood resident and BBG member**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am a neighborhood resident strongly opposed to this rezoning proposal. It would cause irreparable harm to BBG. Institutions like BBG are necessary for the long-term health and vibrancy of the city. We are custodians of the future. Please don't let a short-sighted money grab, even one which makes (cynical, in this case) claims for affordable housing, destroy a living NYC institution that's a sanctuary and educational haven for adults and children alike. Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:44:20 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Paul Schickler**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **none**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

We can build housing elsewhere, but the Brooklyn Botanic Garden cannot be moved. From everything I have heard and read, the loss of sunlight will be detrimental to the neighborhood and devastating for the Garden and those it serves. I strongly oppose this new development.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:40:57 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Elaine Longtemps**

Zip: **11231**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **My husband and I are members of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

This proposed project will cast a huge shadow over our beloved Brooklyn Botanic Garden which will cause many of its shrubs, trees and plants to die, destroying a precious refuge for many Brooklynites. BBG is a gem within Brooklyn, a place of quiet and beauty in a borough that has very few parks and gardens and is becoming increasingly overcrowded and overbuilt. We ourselves live in a landmark area that is being overshadowed by a 35 story Fortis project, so we already know what effect this construction will have on the garden. Please put a stop to this plan and save our beautiful Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:40:33 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Julie Gray**

Zip: **47401**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I'm a former Brooklyn resident and a staunch friend of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Please don't overshadow the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the borough's other open spaces. The BBG is loved by people around the world and is a powerful tourist attraction. If you allow towering construction so nearby, you will be destroying a city treasure, akin to the razing of Penn Station. Apartment buildings can be built anywhere. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is truly irreplaceable.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:39:21 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Ashley Lively**

Zip: **11206**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

As a member of the Brooklyn Botanical Garden and a 10 year Brooklyn resident who frequents our green spaces quite often, I am opposed to the proposed 960 Franklin Ave rezoning plan which will have long-term negative effects not only on the gardens but also the surrounding outdoor spaces in the area due to shade cast year around from the height of the building. We need to do our part to protect the environment in which our citizens live. Sunlight provides warmth in the winter and healthy green spaces in the Spring and Summer. It's this same sunlight that also supports an incredible breadth of species growing in the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. And, if there is anything I've learned in the last year, it's the few open sunlit spaces in this city that put a smile on my face and have motivated me to get outside and stay active. Why choose to destroy a local community's and a beautiful botanic garden's access to sunlight if we don't have to? There are other locations for tall buildings to go, this is not one of them. Please consider the health and happiness of our communities and vote NO to the 960 Franklin Ave rezoning plan.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:35:55 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Christianna I Nelson**

Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **Self**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am a long time Brooklyn resident and passionate supporter of Brooklyn Botanic Garden writing to register my strong disapproval for the rezoning project at 960 Franklin Ave. My family has been members of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden for years. We love seeing the beautiful plants change with the seasons. The Garden connects us to nature in a way that we can't find anywhere else in Brooklyn. My husband and I both grew up out west, where people take open, wild spaces for granted. Here in Brooklyn, we should know better. Loss of sunlight would be catastrophic for many of the plants our family has come to know and love. Brooklyn has plenty of luxury condos that promise a minimal amount of affordable housing. But the plants at Brooklyn Botanic Garden are unique and irreplaceable. If the pandemic has taught us anything, it's the value of New York's precious outdoor spaces. Our family visited the gardens several times a week as soon as it reopened. Walking for hours among the greenery, we found much needed healing

and respite. I implore you, from the bottom of my heart, not to approve this rezoning. Let these developers adapt to nature for a change. Once these plants are gone, they are gone forever. Please do the right thing and protect Brooklyn's precious Garden. Thank you!

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:35:17 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Federico Gallo**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I strongly oppose the rezoning of 960 Franklin Avenue - Not only it will affect Jackie Robinson Playground and Medgar Evers College but those massive building will have a devastating effect on the greenhouses and nurseries of the botanical gardens - 100 years of history and education are more valuable than the dollars that will line up the pockets of some developer

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:34:42 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Stef Daley**

Zip: **11249**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

I am opposed to 960 Franklin Ave. Rezoning. BBG is more than a green space for the city, it's a research center for science and horticultural activity, supporting biodiversity efforts that impact the globe. The plants that are preserved in the conservatory will not survive 4 hours of direct sunlight -- this completely changes the ecosystem. 960 Franklin builders are arguing for affordable housing, which is absolutely needed in this city, but not at the expense of our cultural, science-based, community centered BBG. Ultimately, this is about money for the developers -- they are not willing to make any of their as of right 518 units affordable and I think that speaks multitudes about their intention. A small group of developers intends to make a lot of money and if they can make additional money by offering "affordable" apartments, they're going to push for it.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:34:08 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Camille Fletcher**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The bbg is a nyc cultural institution. It should be protected. The zoning for this neighborhood was designed specifically to protect the garden. Thus it should not be changed to the garden's detriment. Further, the project, doesn't fit the neighborhood. This is not a neighborhood of high rises. It will change the character of the neighborhood. Moreover, what the neighborhood needs is affordable housing, not more luxury developments. They can reduce the size of the project and make it fully affordable.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:31:04 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **William Chasner**

Zip: **10003**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

This project would hurt the Brooklyn Botanic Garden which I love. It is an oasis of peace and quiet and beauty which is rare in this city. I have been a member of the garden for over a decade now. Even though I live in Manhattan instead of Brooklyn, I still go the the BBG once a week. Please do not move forward with this project and hurt one of the few places New Yorkers can see the beauty of nature.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:30:28 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Bond Caldaro**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I am a resident for the last 12 years, living across the street from this project. My family and I live at 35 Crown Street, HDFC.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The well-being of myself and my family will be diminished if this project proceeds as planned. The damage these tall buildings will have on the economy and resources of the neighborhood is significant. Living in an affordable housing HDFC, the addition of many new market rate units creates a local economy that is not affordable for low income residents here. Essential services such as local laundromats, grocery stores, affordable restaurants/delis, and pharmacies have been going out of business over the last 5 years. Also the physical impact of these tall towers will cause devastation to the sunlight available in our apartment, which is essential to the physical and mental health of

my family as we have a child and work from home. Moreover it will also devastate the nearby Botanical Gardens, which provide essential respite for physical and mental health in this neighborhood.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:29:47 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Kristin Scarola**

Zip: **11209**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am in the garden now, inside this treasure, that provides peace, community, and links to our history, and I cannot understand why any development interests are more important than this refuge that is here for the our Brooklyn Community. There is plenty of housing Brooklyn. For years, the BBG's light has been protected and therefore able to flourish. The Garden grows each season, new spaces in the garden open, and life flows. Stand for the Garden, we need this space now and in the future. Our plants need space to thrive, as our world struggles against warming. Make the choice for community over development!

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:28:54 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Rachel Rennie**

Zip: **11220**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanical Gardens is the jewel of Brooklyn. It's where I take my family when they come to visit and I want to show off what this borough has to offer. It's where I celebrate my special occasions. To deprive it of sunlight will make my beloved neighborhood an uglier, sadder place. Please oppose 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:28:28 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **A King**

Zip: **11105**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

As this project endangers the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, I am against it. I have spent countless hours at this garden with friends and family, observing the plant life and attending festivals. I have always found it to be an informative and restorative space. Furthermore, a city garden is a promise passed down from one generation of New Yorkers to another. When we approve of developments that cause physical harm to that garden, we break that promise and declare our generation as one that does not care about the physical and mental health of the people in our

communities and the environment we care for. We cannot allow such promises to be broken. The next generation will never forgive us.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:28:13 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Elena Skolnick**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I have been a member of BBG for years and it is one of my great pleasures. I have watched with dismay the high rises going up in Brooklyn (Fort Greene) that has turned it into a dark canyon. We cannot let that happen to one of the premier open spaces in Brooklyn.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:27:41 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Sarah Jack**
Zip: **11226**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is an essential part of our community. This re-zoning project would utterly devastate the garden and cause upset within the nearby community. This city has so little green space and we must do our part to protect what gardens we have access to. I am fully opposed to this re-zoning project and urge the City Planning Commission to vote against it.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:27:09 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Stephen Sheffer**
Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Hi there! The Brooklyn Botanic Garden needs sunlight! Please restrict the height of the proposed building. Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:27:29 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Lisa Kaiser**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I have lived on Carroll Street for 35 years and I am a student at BBG, working towards my horticultural certificate.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

We must choose community health over greed. Quick cash earned from poorly designed monstrous towers is far less valuable than the treasures a community has birthed and nurtured over many decades. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden

is one of the treasures that makes this a livable home. Rezoning that area to include 37' towers is invitation for more short-sighted projects to grow like poisonous mushrooms.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:25:19 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Serena Crivellaro**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **Myself and my family including two small children**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I wanted to add my voice in opposition to the proposed rezoning of 960 Franklin avenue on the grounds that it will reduce the sunlight available to the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, and damage this neighborhood and citywide gem. The garden has represented an oasis of calm, and an educational treasure trove, my family (with two small children)

and for the neighborhood at large. We have many cherished memories in this garden, are members, visit often, and love the opportunities for learning, cultural exchange, environmental appreciation and also safety represented by that space (vs. prospect park, which while beautiful is less safe for babies learning to walk, women walking alone, and much less educational). Approving the rezoning of 960 Franklin would destroy this space, remove these opportunities from families in the neighborhood - and farther afield.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:24:25 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Julie Lang**

Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Brooklyn Botanic Garden must be protected as an essential resource for the local community, as well as the wider city and beyond. In a time of environmental crisis and global pandemic the need for BBGs education greenhouses,

conservatories and nurseries that are being threatened with a loss of sunlight are more critically important than ever before. Hundreds of thousands of children and families have been inspired by the Garden to care for nature and our planet. We can't risk losing the chance to now educate and inspire the next generation of environmental stewards by allowing developers to overturn the very zoning laws that were put in place to protect this irreplaceable treasure.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:23:01 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **uriel trepman**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Dear city planning commission, I am writing this letter to assert the strongest possible opposition to this proposed massive overreach and eye sore that would do nothing for this community other than further gentrify and damage

one of the most beautiful landmarks Brooklyn has to offer. The Brooklyn botanic garden is more than just a garden, it's an escape. It's a place to fall in love with each other and nature. The sadness I feel thinking that this beautiful institution might be clouded by a gross symbol of inequality is immense. Please do not allow this to happen. Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:21:57 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Daniel Hibshoosh**

Zip: **11218**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Good afternoon, I write to express strong disagreement with the 960 Franklin rezoning proposal. I am a Brooklyn

voter. I have been visiting the Brooklyn Botanic Garden for forty years. It has provided me and millions of others with a tranquil and quiet place to spend time outdoors in the presence of some of the world's finest horticultural collections. Damaging those collections would be a crime against 2.5 million Brooklynites, to say nothing of the hundreds of thousands of people who visit BBG from elsewhere each year. There are many places in NYC that can be redeveloped to help solve the housing crisis. Destroying one of our finest green spaces should not be required. Please reject this and any other rezoning proposal affecting the sunshine that reaches BBG. Thank you for your consideration. Daniel Hibshoosh

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:21:43 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Dorothy Callahan**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I'm a resident of Brooklyn, a DOE employee and a fan of the Brooklyn Botanical garden. Since moving to Brooklyn in

2010 the garden has served as a source of respite and inspiration. I especially benefit and feel refreshed from visiting the greenhouses in Winter. Please do not allow development that would alter sunlight to the garden. The garden is for us. Build elsewhere.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:21:39 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Donald Loggins**

Zip: **11230**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **East 10th Street Block Association**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The garden is a citywide resource for all New Yorkers, it would be short sighted and against the public interest to allow this zoning to shadow the garden. The zoning was put in place to protect the garden and should not be altered to give a developer more profits. Please vote to support this green treasure in Brooklyn

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:21:12 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Christina Bost Seaton**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Our family has been members of the Brooklyn Botanical Garden since we moved to Brooklyn in 2007. The BBG is an integral part of our family's life, and the community. Each year we look forward to the Sakura festival--first as a couple, and now with our children. We love seeing how the plantings change with the seasons. And during the pandemic it has become even more important to have beautiful and peaceful outdoor spaces. Light, air, and open space are non-renewable, limited resources in cities, and it is astounding that it could even be considered to erect a development that would effectively wipe out a long-standing Brooklyn institute by blocking its access to sunlight. Certainly cities change and developments are important, but there are other city blocks upon which a development like this could be built. We strongly urge the CPC to oppose this project.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:20:39 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Janice Pullicino**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**
- **A local business**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

This cannot be allow to go through. The BBG is one of NYC's absolute treasures, and these buildings will block sunlight to the BBG. It is ludicrous that it has even gotten this far along in the process. You cannot prioritize corporate developer's interests over something so crucial to our city as the BBG. There are unlimited other places these developers can build. To allow it to happen here and ruins areas of the BBG is criminal.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:17:54 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Gayle Solomon**

Zip: **11230**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

I have loved the botanic gardens since I had my own children's garden from the ages of 8-13. I have always been a member and I am now 74. It is probably one the most idyllic places in Brooklyn. Please, let's keep it that way. Don't block the light; don't spoil the view. Thanks

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:17:36 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Mary Heyer**

Zip: **10028**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am adamantly opposed to this project due to the overwhelming negative impacts it would have on the Gardens and the nearby community.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 4:16:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Aaron Gordon**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I have never opposed any rezoning or large construction project before. I would self-describe as a YIMBY. I am in favor of lots more housing in this city in as many places as we can put it. I am opposed to this specific project because we desperately need to preserve what little green space this city and our communities have. We can, and must, have more housing without allowing the Brooklyn Botanical Garden to be jeopardized.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 12:10:36 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Ben Sacks**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Additional housing is needed nearby, but a building as high as the developers propose does greater damage than good by shading the BBG's greenhouses. If the project simply keeps the zoning the same and requires the apartments to be affordable for people who already live in the neighborhood, the development will make a strong contribution towards resolving the local housing crisis. Instead, the developers insist on threatening one of our greatest cultural institutions. I am a nonprofit fundraiser, and I am appalled at the idea that the developers face no punishment for causing the BBG to expend valuable financial resources to raise public awareness of the threat this development poses to us all. There just seems to be no downside for the developers in wasting everyone's time. There needs to be a financial punishment on firms like these who are willing to put entire communities in jeopardy in the distant hopes of making more money than they would if they just built a decent building that caused no harm. The longer this drags on, the more likely it is the community will tire of fighting it and the developers win. This has to stop now. The project must be rejected now. And they should be made to pay for all our time for such a foolish effort to change the law in their own self-interest.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 11:53:58 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Mirana Moore**
Zip: **11225-2103**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Please vote no to the rezoning of 960 Franklin Avenue. I live just a few blocks away and oppose the rezoning for so many reasons. Protecting the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens (and any green space) is paramount in our crowded, overly built city. The BBG is where my children learned to walk with their toes in the grass. As a teacher, I've taken countless children to learn about and appreciate nature. As a community member I know that we can't afford another over-large tower that will crowd our streets and subway station even more. Affordable housing can be built elsewhere and in other ways that do not jeopardize our prime community resource.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 11:47:56 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Jack Kaplan**

Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am writing to state my opposition to the proposed rezoning of 960 Franklin Avenue. The proposed development would block sunlight to Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The shadows cast by the building would especially impact the conservatory complex, which threatens the entirety of the collection because plants for the entire garden are propagated and grown here. It would adversely affect the Garden's famed bonsai collection, one of the largest in the nation. Ever since its founding in 1910, education has been one of the most enduring and valuable concerns of the garden. This damage to the Garden would limit BBG's ability to provide year-round free STEM education to Brooklyn's youth (more than 200,000 of whom visit each year). Furthermore, the proposed building would plunge the Jackie Robinson Houses and its playground into shadow for much of the day. What's more the size of the proposed development is completely out of scale with the neighborhood. I remind the Commission that the current zoning was implemented especially to protect the BBG from harm, and there is no reason to change it now.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 10:39:35 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **CINDY LIST**
Zip: **11216**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am vehemently opposed to this outrageous project. The developer should never have been allowed to even apply for a zoning variance. The zoning in place protects the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the Jackie Robinson Playground, and our neighborhood's integrity. If this were to go through, nothing in NYC will be spared - If the BBG is not a landmark, nothing is.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 at 9:24:09 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL
Attachments: 960 Franklin Ave Rezoning NYC CPC Statement.pdf

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Ruben Colon**
Zip: **11214**

I represent:

- **Myself**
- **A local community group or organization**
- **Other**

Details for "I Represent": **NYC & Vicinity District Council of Carpenters**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **in favor**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

To whom it may concern: Please accept the attached PDF as Testimony in Favor of this Rezoning. Thank you, Ruben Colon: NYCDC Area Standards Rep

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 9:20:19 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Amy Freitag**

Zip: **10010**

I represent:

- **Other**

Details for "I Represent": **JM Kaplan Fund**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ON 960 FRANKLIN AVENUE REZONING Testimony from Amy Freitag Thank you to for allowing me to share my opposition to the rezoning proposal for 960 Franklin Avenue. As Executive Director of the J.M. Kaplan Fund, I guide our partnerships with non-profits broadly speaking in three areas: social justice, the natural environment, and the built environment. In this work I am guided by my experience in Philadelphia Parks, NYC Parks Department, the World Monuments Fund, leadership at the New York City Restoration Project, as well as my professional training in Landscape Architecture and Historic Preservation. The 960 Franklin rezoning application engages all areas of our work at the J.M. Kaplan Fund: The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a renowned historic landscape, a landmark in NYC's built environment, a critical habitat for biodiverse species and a fundamental contributor to a more environmentally just New York. Founded in 1910, Brooklyn Botanic Garden is one of only two Olmsted Brother's landscapes in NYC, (the second being Fort Tryon Park). Dreamt of in the heady days of the turn of the century, the Garden's design expresses a desire for beauty, of course, but also for civic engagement and uplift through immersion in and education about the natural world. As a holistic design the Garden merges many styles. It is grounded in a romantic, Olmstedian vision that was elaborated upon by Harold Caparn, noted landscape designer Alice Recknagel Ireys, (who created BBG's Fragrance Garden), and recent spectacular designs by Michael Van Valkenburgh and Weiss/Manfredi. The Fragrance Garden was the first of its kind in a botanic garden in the world (it was designed specifically to teach the blind and visually impaired about plant life), and the Garden overall was conceived with a special mission to educate and support the health of children. Brooklyn Botanic Garden stands as an internationally significant landscape, one that has advanced horticulture, education and civic engagement for over 100 years Brooklyn Botanic Garden is not just a collection of landscapes, collections and buildings, but rather, a holistic work of art of historic and cultural importance. It is among NYC's most important and renowned civic, cultural and ecologically significant resources. The 960 Franklin Avenue rezoning application threatens the keystone asset of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden: shade is the arch enemy of the diverse horticulture that defines the Garden. Further, the visual encroachment of the proposed structure is a radical departure from a long-held protection of this world class landmark. The benefit to these developers and the future residents of the proposed structure certainly cannot outweigh the 100+ year legacy and extraordinarily important mission of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Millions of New Yorkers have and will continue to benefit from this 52-acre oasis. It's our collective responsibility to protect it, even in the face of development and economic pressure. On behalf of the J.M. Kaplan Fund, a supporter of the Garden for over 50 years, I urge you to oppose a rezoning that would radically and irreversibly damage this New York City institution. Sincerely, Amy L. Freitag Executive Director J.M. Kaplan Fund

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 9:19:31 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Emily Lloyd**
Zip: **11231**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I oppose the proposed rezoning of 960 Franklin Avenue. I write as the former Commissioner of the Department of Sanitation, former Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, and former President of the Prospect Park Alliance and Administrator of Prospect Park, and as a longtime resident of Brooklyn and user of Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the Park. In addition to creating shadows that, according to the EIS and confirmed by expert environmental modelers, would last up to 4.5 hours in sections of the Garden, the shadows would also have a deleterious environmental impact on public places to the east, including Jackie Robinson Playground, the campus and public spaces of Medgar Evers College, PS/MS 375, the Jackie Robinson School, and its small but important green spaces. The shadows would also stretch well into Prospect Park -- past the Zoo and into the Nethermead. The towers would compromise the sense of spaciousness that Olmsted believed was so important to building a sense of ease among people from diverse communities as they used Brooklyn's precious green spaces. In addition, the proposed development would undermine Brooklyn Botanic Garden's ability to carry out its historic role of educating visitors about rare plants and ecosystems so as to educate the next generation of environmental stewards. In 1991, the City Planning Commission wisely and carefully implemented zoning limitations in the Crown Heights neighborhood to protect a resource the City of New York had stewarded, hand-in-glove with leaders of the Garden, for more than a century. The City should be proud of its legacy of encouraging reasonable growth that also prioritizes protecting its historic green spaces. Now, 30 years later, the City Planning Commission must reaffirm the strategic wisdom of its 1991 zoning, and reject this ill-conceived proposal. Thank you for the opportunity to offer my thoughts.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 4:33:34 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Janine Nichols**
Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **A local community group or organization**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **Yes**

Additional Comments:

I'd like to begin by pointing out that the community has yet to see the Draft Restrictive Declaration on this project, despite multiple FOIL requests, lawsuits and a mandate recently added to the City Charter. Continuum is seeking a large scale general development designation, that is, a manufacturing/industrial designation that conveniently carries no height limits and few parking requirements or pesky residential building requirements intended to ensure sufficient light and air for people and sensitive ecosystems — such as the Botanic Garden. It has thus far been reserved for shopping centers, supermarkets and heavy or light manufacturing, and most recently applied to the Nassau Brewery on Bergen St. in Brooklyn, a project now stalled for financial reasons, but located in a commercial district, unlike here. The answer to the commissioner's question this morning as to why Continuum did not pursue a less tall but equally dense zoning designation is VIEWS, VIEWS, VIEWS. Approval of this EGREGIOUS zoning change would put every community and green space in this city at immediate risk of unprecedented, out-of-context and out-of-control development. How? By rendering all current zoning restrictions as well as state laws intended to insure sufficient light and air for all living things toothless, IRRELEVANT. I urge the commissioners to take umbrage at the disrespect shown them by the developer. This is an outrageous proposal that never should have made it off the back of the envelope. It must be summarily dismissed, sent back to the drawing board. Let Continuum build market rate apartments as of right, as they often "threaten" to do. Let their architect acquaint himself with the meaning of the term "as of right," since he just said he didn't know what it meant. The residents of Crown Heights would be fine with as of right construction. Just KEEP YOUR TOWERS OFF OUR FLOWERS AND HOUSES. I want to quote Commissioner Levin from the February 1 review session on this project: "I have got to say that I have never seen an environmental impact statement with such a stark, scary description of the open space impacts here, not only on the Botanic Garden — those are the really eye-catching ones — but also on the [Jackie Robinson] playground. You know, the whole purpose of this environmental review I guess is now being revealed, which is that we, as decision makers, are supposed to look at what the impacts are and decide what to do about them. This is the first time I can remember sitting on this commission where I'm confronted with information in EIS that suggests that this should just be a non-starter." Fires and floods raging across the world and we are talking about destroying a beloved green space and working class neighborhood of color. Shameful.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 4:17:51 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL
Attachments: CPC Hearing 960 Franklin Testimony Carter Strickland.pdf

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Carter Strickland**
Zip: **11201**

I represent:

- **Myself**
- **A local community group or organization**
- **Other**

Details for "I Represent": **The Trust for Public Land**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Please see attached

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 3:01:01 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Andrew Phillips**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The botanic gardens provides a much needed haven for everyone in the area. Especially in view of the pandemic-related changes in the demand for apartments in NYC, it would be very disappointing if a unique treasure of this area were put at risk for unnecessary and likely unprofitable, short-term commercial greed. Please block this egregious attempt to spoil the area for the many for the benefit of a very small few.

Subject: FW: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 2:16:06 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Syed Ahmed (DCP)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP)

For you.

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply) <PublicComments_DL@planning.nyc.gov>

Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 1:40 PM

To: Syed Ahmed (DCP) <SAHMED@planning.nyc.gov>, BrooklynComments_DL <BrooklynComments_DL@planning.nyc.gov>

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Donna Tracey**

Zip: **11231**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

We need to protect our few green spaces and we don't need more towers.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 2:13:42 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Anthony Wood**
Zip: **10128**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **Anthony C. Wood is a preservation activist, writer, teacher, historian, and grantsmaker. Since 1993 Anthony C. Wood has been the Executive Director of the Ittleson Foundation. Prior to that he served as the Chief Program Officer at the J. M. Kaplan Fund. He has worked for both the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Municipal Art Society. For over twenty years he served as an Adjunct Assistant**

Professor of Historic Preservation in the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation. He holds a Master of Urban Planning from the University of Illinois, is a graduate of Kenyon College, and was a Historic Deerfield Summer Fellow. Mr. Wood is actively involved with a wide array of preservation and conservation organizations. He has served as Chair of the Preservation League of New York State, is an Advisor Emeritus to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is former Chair of Partners for Sacred Places, is Chairman Emeritus of the Historic Districts Council of New York City, and is the founder and Chair Emeritus of the New York Preservation Archive Project. He is the Chair of the Drayton Hall Site Council and serves on the board of the Orton Family Foundation. He is a former President of Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts. He has served on the boards of the Land Trust Alliance, the Glynwood Center, the Friends of the High School for Environmental Studies, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, and Landmark West. He served as Chairman of the Selection Panel for the World Monuments Watch 2002. He is the author of Preserving New York: Winning the Right to Protect a City's Landmarks (Routledge, 2007).

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

Testimony of Anthony Wood City Planning Commission Hearing on 960 Franklin Avenue Proposed Rezoning To the Commission, I am writing today to urge the Commission to reject the rezoning application of 960 Franklin Avenue that would harm Brooklyn Botanic Garden's collections. As a scholar of historic preservation and urbanism, I urge you to maintain the downzoning that was put in place in 1991 to protect Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Steinhardt Conservatory complex from just the sort of proposal being advanced by this application. It is true that our current affordability crisis must be solved through considered collective action. But this application, which yokes the promise of affordable units to a zoning class that is egregiously out of scale to the surrounding neighborhood, is no standard bearer. It is wrong to assume the only way to solve the affordability crisis is to create a cultural crisis by harming this cherished cultural institution. It is a false choice to assume we must pick one over the other. Our city can choose its future and plan for what it wants: planning for affordability at locations that do not harm the city's historic landscapes of distinction. Experts at the Garden tell us that the shadows cast by the proposal, with its 400-some foot towers just across the easternmost border of the Garden, by blocking up to four hours of sunlight a day to its pavilions, would damage their collections of desert, aquatic, temperate, and tropical plants, including a world-class collection of orchids and bonsai, the largest in the northeast. While Brooklyn Botanic Garden may not officially be designated an historic landmark, it is truly a historic landscape of distinction, having been designated by the Olmsted Brothers and featuring a building on the historic registry by McKim, Mead, and White. An appropriately scaled development proposal must take into consideration the sunlight needs of an historic and distinguished botanic garden and its collections. We must do what we can to protect our city's urban treasures. Please reject this application. Anthony C. Wood

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 1:59:43 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Nora Kaiser**
Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am opposed to the rezoning proposal for 960 Franklin Ave. Rezoning would mean permanent harm for the garden and the neighbors, members and tourists who visit the garden each year. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a treasure in its history, presence today and for the future. The properties being developed around the garden are being developed in part because of the garden itself. The future of this city depends on smart use of space and preservation of the treasures we already have. 13 years ago this month my husband and I got married in the garden. All our family and friends and our two children agree- the garden and the sunlight that keeps it growing is worth fighting for. No Rezoning. Thank you,

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 1:32:37 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Ann Lavallee**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Gardens are such an integral part of the community. If any portion of the grounds is deprived of sunlight, it would have a lasting effect, extending past the park itself. One of the first "safe" beautiful kid-friendly spaces for my family/ friends post quarantine reunions was the Gardens. Please help the gardens grow or at least maintain.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 12:08:55 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Gail Rothschild**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I represent myself and the other two members of my household**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am vehemently opposed to this greedy developer destroying a vital public amenity the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. This project must be halted or radically changed to allow adequate light for our much-needed green friends.

Subject: Comments re: C 210177 ZMK - Gowanus Neighborhood Plan

Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 10:51:51 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 210177 ZMK - Gowanus Neighborhood Plan**

- Application Number: **C 210177 ZMK**
- Project: **Gowanus Neighborhood Plan**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/28/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **2, 6**

Submitted by:

Name: **Dorothy Browne**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **myself - lifelong Brooklyn resident and BBG member who lives nearby.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the rezoning at 960 Franklin Avenue. I wish to submit this written testimony in opposition to the rezoning of 960 Franklin Avenue. The proposal would destroy much of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden as well as damage the surrounding community. It is several times larger than the original zoning would allow. The original zoning was intended to protect this incredible resource for generations. This one change would effectively kill much of the garden's living flora and ecosystem. This destruction would be permanent and could not be reversed in our lifetime. Sunlight is essential for these plants and organisms. It is also essential for Brooklyn residents, from Community Board 9 and elsewhere. The BBG was created in 1910 to preserve green space for New Yorkers in a rapidly growing, congested, and polluted city. Currently, 2.6 million residents call Brooklyn home. Today, in an era of catastrophic and deadly climate change, the last thing we need is to eliminate natural resources and environmental educators like the BBG. We don't have to choose between creating affordable housing and losing our community's sunlight and the Botanic Garden. That is a false choice which is prompted by greed. We can insist that developers set aside a higher percentage of truly affordable housing units for each development. They will still be profitable. I am a member of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. I have lived in Brooklyn my whole life and visited the BBG every year, through the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, through decline, through gentrification, and now through a global pandemic. Visiting the garden during the pandemic has been truly restorative. What has remained constant is that the Brooklyn Botanic Garden is vital green space for our health and mental health, but is also a community cultural and educational hub that connects our community to wider and even global communities. Let's not sacrifice all of this for future generations to generate excessive profits for a very few. Please continue to fight for everyday Brooklynites and oppose this rezoning! Thank you very much for your essential service! warm regards, Dorothy Browne 581 Third Street Brooklyn, NY 11215

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 10:28:58 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Dorrit Blakeslee**
Zip: **10305**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is an NYC institution, and any new development or rezoning should not have any impact on the health of the garden or the ability for plants to grow. There is so little green space in New York City compared to concrete and high rises that we need to protect the small space that we have. 960 Franklin should only be developed with a structure that does not impact the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (and is not tall enough to cast a shadow over the garden for hours during the day). The Garden should have a higher priority than developers that are just looking to make the most profit (with little concern for the surrounding community).

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 10:18:37 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Lisa Safier**

Zip: **11210**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **N/A**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Please reject the proposal to erect a 34-story behemoth on land that was zoned specifically to protect the Brooklyn Botanic Garden from building shadows. Towers of this size would block hours of sunlight to the Garden's 23 conservatories, greenhouses, and nurseries, which grow plants for the entire 52-acre Garden site and its community programs. Urban life, COVID, and climate change are all reasons why precious green, open spaces need to be protected. The BBG is a rare resource for all New Yorkers and it must be protected.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 10:13:15 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Felice Robertson**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**
- **The local community board**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project?
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **Yes**

Additional Comments:

Totally opposed this monstrosity that would destroy the Brooklyn botanic Gardens... Oppose the massive of people ... we have no schools, hospitals or enough food for this massive of people.. no parking, sanitation, water and electricity problems... The community is not built for this mass of people and the Garden is a staple of our community... Do not care for the building and I am District Council member.... Chair and Delegate...this would also displace the people that lives here and the union members as well.... VERY BAD DEAL!

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 10:04:30 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Alyssa Graham**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

As a local community member I object to this rezoning request that would directly affect the growing conditions of Brooklyn Botanic Garden and disrupt our communities access to sunlight. At over 110 years old, The botanic garden is a unique respite into nature, an educational tool and a resource for the children, families and community members surrounding it. It must continue to be. It reminds us that more than just trees can grow in Brooklyn - we as people and learners can too. Sunlight brings life to us all. I urge you not to cast a shadow over us.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 9:49:45 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Francoise Crook**

Zip: **11201**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I agree with the comments that have been made against the proposed approval of high rise building and would like to add one more: BBG, as we know and enjoy it today, is the result of more than 200 years of planning and nurturing, We need to do our part now to continue this effort and keep this New york gem protected. Please vote no to zoning changes. Thank you. Françoise Bureau Crook

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 9:42:23 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Susan Donlon**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **Yes**

Additional Comments:

I oppose franklin ave project and support BBG

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 9:20:17 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Dana MacGrath**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **Resident in the area that would be negatively impacted by the proposed rezoning**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I oppose the proposed rezoning because of the negative impact on the lives of the current residents in the area — both residents who moved there recently (of which I am one) because of what the neighborhood currently offers, including an unobstructed Brooklyn Botanic Garden and playgrounds for children, as well as the long-time residents in this neighborhood who will be negatively impacted as well.

Subject: Re: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 9:13:32 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Syed Ahmed (DCP)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP)

You are welcome. Writing a negative report would be a task.

Syed

From: Jonah Rogoff (DCP) <JROGOFF@planning.nyc.gov>
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 9:02 AM
To: Syed Ahmed (DCP) <SAHMED@planning.nyc.gov>
Subject: Re: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

It is - thanks Syed! We're being bombarded by comments.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 29, 2021, at 12:11 AM, Syed Ahmed (DCP) <SAHMED@planning.nyc.gov> wrote:

May be this is for you.

Syed

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply) <PublicComments_DL@planning.nyc.gov>

Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 9:40 PM

To: Syed Ahmed (DCP) <SAHMED@planning.nyc.gov>, BrooklynComments_DL <BrooklynComments_DL@planning.nyc.gov>

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Kathrine Rusanovskaya**

Zip: **11230**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Please do not allow tall buildings built in this property which would create shadow in the brooklyn botanical garden.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 9:03:12 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL
Attachments: City Planning Commission 960 Franklin Ave Hearing 7.29.21_Prospect Park Alliance.docx.pdf

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Susan Donoghue**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **A local community group or organization**

Details for “I Represent”: **Prospect Park Alliance**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

As a parks conservancy and cultural partner to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, we are concerned about the environmental impact of the proposed upzoning of 960 Franklin Avenue on Brooklyn Botanic Garden and surrounding green spaces—including Prospect Park. The development will create shadows that according to the EIS would last up to 4.5 hours in sections of the Garden, and also would have a negative environmental impact on public places to the east, including Jackie Robinson Playground, the campus and public spaces of Medgar Evers College, and PS/MS 375, the Jackie Robinson School, and its small but important green spaces. The shadows would also stretch well into Prospect Park, one of the jewels of Brooklyn, home to the borough's last remaining forest and only lake, and an important historic landmark. As park stewards, we understand how vital sunlight is for the health of plants and people. The towers could also create a harmful reflective, heat-generating glare on the Garden and the Park, while also creating an enormous visual blight visible from throughout the Garden, from all of Prospect Park, and from most of Brooklyn. Due to the low-scale development surrounding the park, it is truly an escape from the surrounding city, and when exploring the Ravine or relaxing on the Nethermead, our community feels surrounded by nature, which would be significantly impacted by this development.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 9:00:53 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Alice Pope**
Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am a 30-year resident of Brooklyn; my husband has lived here his whole life. BBG is a cherished resource for our family and deserves to be protected for future generations. People who came before us acted to preserve this important institution through zoning restrictions -- how can we now reverse those protections and deny our children and grandchildren something that contributes so strongly to our collective quality of life? BBG is a refuge from urban madness, a community building space where we can mingle with folks from other neighborhoods, a resource for understanding the beauty of nature (this last, more important than ever as we are bombarded by the results of our poor care for the natural world -- surely, we all need to develop reverence for nature as well as a solid understanding of natural sciences in order for humankind to survive). Yes, affordable housing is essential. But we can have both, and any attempts to pit these two public goods against one another is cynical and false. Let's protect our garden, and let's also work together to find the right places for truly affordable housing. It is arrogant, selfish, and short-sighted for the people of today to destroy something that our forebears created with the intention of serving future generations. As Brooklyn changes, sprouting more and more high rise buildings, increasing density and traffic and urban stress and higher cost of living, let us act to preserve those places that are entrusted with the very soul of our borough. I pray we can join together to be good stewards of BBG, to honor the efforts of those who came before us, and to ensure the same benefits of the garden to those who will come after us.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 8:17:16 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Mignon Rosales**
Zip: **11202**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I oppose the 960 Franklin Avenue project because the creation of the building will likely harm the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The Botanic Garden is a unique and one of a kind place where Brooklynites can escape the cityscape for magical and peaceful gardens. While it is easy to construct a building like 960 Franklin Avenue in other parts of Brooklyn, far away from the Botanic Gardens; it is not so easy to replace the Botanic Gardens. We should learn from the example of the Green Valley Garden at 93 New Lots Avenue, in Brownsville. When a tall building was constructed adjacent to the garden, the shade from the building deprived the garden of the early hour sunlight, resulting in a degradation of soil quality and the death of plants. This same phenomenon will likely occur at the Botanic Garden if 960 Franklin Avenue is constructed. In sum, I oppose adding 960 Franklin Avenue to the area because it will not be a victory for Brooklyn. Adding affordable housing units to the area, units whose affordability is questioned, would result in a pyrrhic victory, as buildings such as 960 Franklin can be found all over Brooklyn, yet there is only one unique Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Prudent and promising public policy will preserve the garden, as such a sacred space is necessary to Brooklyn well-being.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 8:15:56 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Tasha Milkman**
Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am opposed to the rezoning because of the negative impact it would have on the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 7:49:53 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Susan Longhito**

Zip: **11228**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Although I live in southwest Brooklyn, I realize the importance of greenspace throughout the city. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is not just a city treasure but a NATIONAL treasure. The City Council purports to be an advocate of "green" and a fighter of climate change. Please live up to your principles and reject this zoning proposal. We need the BBG to continue its work on behalf of Brooklyn, the City and the World.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 6:50:11 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Rachel K**

Zip: **11211**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

As a floral designer and as a Brooklyn resident, I strongly oppose the 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning application. Brooklyn Botanic is one of the few protected gardens residents and tourists can go to escape the city noise and it is also one of the most popular venues for events such as weddings. I do flowers for weddings at BBG frequently and on my days off enjoy spending the morning at BBG with fellow floral designers. Public parks such as Central Park and Domino Park are not enough. BBG is not only a place for adults to escape their busy lives, but also a place of education for all ages. If the pandemic taught us anything it's the importance of green spaces. Most New Yorkers live in cramped apartments with little to no sunlight and definitely no outdoor space. We must protect our green spaces and thus we must stop the 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning application.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 5:42:29 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Pauline Toole**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The rezoning will negatively impact vital green spaces in the neighborhood, including the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The CPC had the foresight to limit building height in the area in 1991 for the express purpose of protecting the Garden. Please reject this rezoning.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 1:03:34 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Justin Flynn**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I strongly oppose this project. It would be detrimental to all residents of Brooklyn who enjoy the Botanic garden's beauty. It is a jewel that we have to protect, and this development would severely damage the garden by restricting light and creating a visual eyesore. Please do not let this zoning request be approved.

Subject: FW: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 12:11:35 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Syed Ahmed (DCP)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP)

May be this is for you.

Syed

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply) <PublicComments_DL@planning.nyc.gov>

Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 9:40 PM

To: Syed Ahmed (DCP) <SAHMED@planning.nyc.gov>, BrooklynComments_DL
<BrooklynComments_DL@planning.nyc.gov>

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Kathrine Rusanovskaya**

Zip: **11230**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Please do not allow tall buildings built in this property which would create shadow in the brooklyn botanical garden.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 10:59:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **April Greene**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am no NIMBY! This is simply not the place for a 34-story tower! I have been a homeowner near BBG since 2008 and was employed at the Garden from 2010 to 2012. I now visit this unique living museum regularly with my elderly mother and toddler, and, as a community gardener, I look forward to events like Making Brooklyn Bloom. I will no doubt send my daughter to classes in BBG's Children's Garden when she is old enough. My story is but one of countless personal stories that BBG's visitors have to tell about what this historic, irreplaceable oasis means to those of us who live near it and to greater Brooklyn. I am not anti-development; I understand that NYC continues to grow and that we need to keep building. On balance, that's a good thing. What is NOT a good thing is ruining the precious neighborhood landmarks that draw people to our city in the first place, and that make living here worth the price, in an effort to create more housing. It would be senseless for this construction project to decimate one of New York City's treasures. Please don't let it happen!

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 10:29:47 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Sylvia Cuadrado**

Zip: **11232**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **Sylvia Cuadrado**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

There is no reason to erect another 34 story building. This land does not need to be rezoned. Protect the BBG! That's a treasure. Not some ugly multimillion dollar condo building.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 10:26:07 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Timarie Harrigan**

Zip: **11205**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I'm an owner within the Clinton Hill Coops and am a lifelong New Yorker.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

I stand in strong opposition to rezoning for the 960 Franklin Avenue development in Crown Heights. Green space within our city serves as vital sustenance to our eco-system, our people, and our well-being. It's our collective responsibility to preserve it and honor it. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden needs space and sun to thrive, to continue on serving as a haven for all our neighbors; to live into it's calling as a cultural space that welcomes all walks. I implore you to keep the sunlight in the Garden and reject the proposal for 960 Franklin Avenue. The harm this development would cause would be irreparable. I have been a member of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden for many years. In that time it's offered me respite from daily life but it has also given me some of my most treasured moments. I've enjoyed its evening hours after some of the most grueling days of work in Manhattan. It's in BBG's Osborne Garden that I found myself dancing in step with the Japanese Folk Dance Institute at Sakura Matsuri--a light in one of the bleakest moments in my life. I've watched friends become families at weddings hosted under the magnolia trees. I've learned how to dig my hands into the dirt and craft beautiful arrangements out of fresh cut flowers within the Garden's classrooms. I recall gawking as a heron gracefully landed in the Japanese Garden--we all rushed for photos. And most beautifully, this is where I saw the city come back to life after we were hit with covid. I will never forget sitting beneath a cherry tree at the turn of May 2021, feeling the year of grief and loneliness, but also hope, washing over me. There was joy and light everywhere. It was a moment of renewal and it was no surprise that it was the Brooklyn Botanic Garden that provided our city with this gift of newness and possibility. We must preserve the Garden's grounds together--and that means keeping light on it's grounds by rejecting the proposal for 960 Franklin Avenue. It is our duty to do our part in stewarding the land that makes our city's people, flora, and fauna thrive. And in fact, the hard part is already done--the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's dedicated and remarkably talented staff have cared for the land for more than a century. Our part is to ensure the future of the Garden by being stewards for community and land--we do this by putting our community first, and saying NO to the 960 Franklin Avenue proposal. It is the easy part. Timarie Harrigan Brooklyn, NY 11205

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 10:20:10 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Camille Clowery**
Zip: **11105**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanical Gardens is a place that everyone in the city can enjoy. Erecting a huge building that casts a shadow over many of the plants there will have a permanent, damaging impact on it. Preserving the little greenery this city has is more important than putting money into the pockets of some greedy developers.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 10:06:58 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Deborah Herdan**

Zip: **11218**

I represent:

- **Myself**
- **Other**

Details for "I Represent": **Adam White**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

We visited the Brooklyn Botanical Garden (The Garden) on a recent July evening for the first time since before covid. The Garden was lush and the plant life was bursting with green and flowers of many colors. It was a hot humid day and the Garden provided cool shade that made us feel great. We listened to Haitian music and danced a little. The Garden is an invaluable resource for Brooklyn residents and its plant life reduces our carbon emissions. We want to protect The Garden because The Garden protects us. We disagree with the 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning because it will negatively impact The Garden.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 9:59:19 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **KAREN SCHEETZ**

Zip: **10520**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

This rezoning project must be stopped. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden was a sanctuary for me and my family for the many years we lived in Brooklyn, I am an artist and still visit the garden to draw and paint although I live 2 hours away from it now. I was married in the greenhouse and have many fond memories of the garden. Destroying the light needed for the plants and trees in this garden would be a travesty that could never be recovered from. I strongly urge and beg the City Planning Commission to stop this project and allow the Brooklyn Botanic Garden to stay the exquisite bit of heaven that it currently is.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 9:33:23 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Josie Phelps**

Zip: **60614**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

It might be instructive to look at pictures of BBG's early photos: for example, the Japanese Hill-and-Pond Garden right after its completion in 1915. It takes a lot of faith to grow a garden in the middle of NYC. The vision of the landscape designers, the skill of the gardeners, the growth that has happened the last 100 years--it's all about to be wiped out--for...greed? Another high-rise? Progress? On balance, this zoning change does more harm than good to the neighborhood and the City. Let's have faith that gardens can be sustained for a hundred more years, even in NYC.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 8:57:37 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Linda Ostreicher**

Zip: **10009**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

As a city planner with a Master's degree from MIT, I know that one of the original purposes of zoning was to preserve sunlight from overdevelopment in the form of large buildings. It violates this most basic principle of rational and equitable city planning to cut off sunlight from, of all places, an exquisite public garden. It is impossible to just pick up plants and trees and move them to another part of the Brooklyn Botanical Garden without harming them. No new land will magically appear in the portion of the Garden that is not blighted by the shadows of this outsized proposed development. There is no possible remediation of the great environmental harm that the shadows of this building will cause. Brooklyn Botanical Garden is an irreplaceable public good. It serves all parts of the community, as well as tourists. I used to volunteer in a women's prison, doing workshops on personal development. Sometimes we asked participants to think of a place where they felt safe in the past. Some said with their mother, some said in church, and the other most common place named was the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. Don't let one selfish developer take this precious place away from us.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 8:03:44 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the

public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **jane Atlas**

Zip: **11205**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The proposed Franklin Ave. building will do irreparable damage to the flowers, plants and trees in the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. Studies have shown this to be true. The sunshine that is essential to the garden will be severely limited.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 7:52:42 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Richard Charlton**
Zip: **10128**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am against the proposed rezoning due to the expected harm to the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, which is a treasure to all New Yorkers. The current zoning was adopted to protect the BBG; it should continue unchanged. Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 7:41:28 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Mary Paul**
Zip: **11230**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I am a 40-year Brooklyn resident who cherishes the botanical gardens as a jewel in the city's crown.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanical Gardens are a source of immense enjoyment for residents and a valuable tourist draw, which brings in money to the city's coffers. Allowing anything that would jeopardize this is thoughtless and shortsighted. Let them build their skyscrapers somewhere else, preferably in another city.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 7:01:36 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Emmeline Cardozo**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

I've seen and experienced first-hand the broad value that Brooklyn Botanic Garden provides to the surrounding community. I'm opposed to a re-zoning that would result in reduced sunlight for this important, historic, and vibrant neighborhood institution. Please consider the importance of green spaces like BBG for all New Yorkers and disapprove this re-zoning.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 6:38:14 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Donald Beckman**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I am a member of and a volunteer guide for the Brooklyn Botanical Garden and a Brooklyn resident since 1992.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Should this project be built the developers will be long gone with their profits and mostly wealthy people will have luxury apartments but the damage to the garden with a severe loss of sunlight will be permanent. The conservatories which have many rare and endangered species and which grow new plants for the entire garden cannot be protected from the dangerous threat of such a severe loss of sunlight. Developers can look for land elsewhere but the garden cannot move away from new construction near it. The current zoning was made to specifically protect the garden from just such a catastrophe.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 6:25:36 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Isabel Wacker**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**
- **A local community group or organization**

Details for "I Represent": **I am the President of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Auxilliary as well as a resident of Brooklyn for almost 40 years.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I have previously testified at CB9 as well as the Brooklyn Borough President's hearing about the importance of Brooklyn Botanic Garden ("BBG") to the volunteer community in Brooklyn. BBG provides a place for volunteers from my organization - who come from varied neighborhoods and backgrounds - to congregate, support an exceptional institution and learn about horticulture, each other and the diverse communities that make up New York. I am writing again since I cannot attend in person because my husband has had a serious health crisis. During this difficult time, gardening has been a source of solace and stress-release beyond anything I could have imagined. I have heard others testify to this effect but now I have experienced it myself. We must strengthen the institutions that increase learning and interest in gardening; we must preserve green spaces as a source of solace and comfort to all New

Yorkers. As we continue to face challenges from the pandemic, we must preserve and protect those places that nurture us and keep us safe. Please vote no to this application.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 5:46:15 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Tessa Huxley**
Zip: **10002**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I am a former member of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden staff, a long term member of the garden and a volunteer.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

To the Members of the City Planning Commission: I write to you today as a lifetime New Yorker, an active citizen, a horticulturist by training, a retired Parks Professional, and a strong believer in "the public realm". I played in the Garden as a child in the 1950's and 60's, I worked there as a new college graduate in the 1970's, and I have been a supporter ever since. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden offers New Yorkers a place to learn, a place of respite, and a place to breathe. It is a vital public open space that has become more and more precious over time. WE, the citizens, have loved it dearly over the years. As Commissioners, obligated to render decisions for the public good, I urge you to vote NO to the request for a zoning variance by the 960 Franklin Avenue Developer. As you must be aware, your predecessors zoned the area around the Brooklyn Botanic Garden for a maximum height of seven stories. This was

done specifically to protect this valuable public resource today and forever. To allow the Developer to build a forty story building flies in the face of all that makes sense. The basic information about Photosynthesis is well known: plants require sunlight to produce the sugars that sustain them. This development would deprive the Botanic Garden and the Jackie Robinson Playground of vital sunshine. The Botanic Garden is classified as a museum and as such it requires full sunlight to care for its collections. In addition, as human beings we too require sunshine and flock to sunny spots on a regular basis. Please, do not allow yourselves to make a decision that would put an institution that has served New York City for over one hundred years in harm's way. A vote in the affirmative can never be remedied. PLEASE, vote NO and save Brooklyn Botanic Garden for us all! Thank you, Tessa Huxley

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 5:02:18 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Kai Chang**
Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

To whom it may concern, I would like to write you to express my opposition to the 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning proposal. Originally, I am from Japan. I have been living in Crown Heights for ten years. The BBG is the one of the most important and beneficial places in New York where has been bringing me (and my family visited from Japan) joy, happiness, good health, and inspiration, especially as an local artist (website: www.artrraction.com). I must say that I don't know any place like the BBG in Japan. I can't help thinking that this rezoning proposal was planned by human greed which is a bottomless pit. This kind of proposals would never be considered and needless to say, be approved to be built. If this rezoning proposal is approved and the 34th floors glass towers is built, it will PERMANENTLY DAMAGE not only to BBG's collections, landscapes, education programs as we all know, but also other living beings in

the garden and the profound natural resource that we have not found out, NY. The world needs more trees, plants, flowers, gardens, parks, nature. The sun is vital to human beings and all the other living beings to survive. No sun, No life!! including to those who are in favor to this rezoning proposal. Please say "NO" to the rezoning proposal to save, protect the BBG, the community, the nature in NY and the world.
Thank you for taking the time to read this. Sincerely, Kai Chang kai@humanbeat.org

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 3:35:25 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Ingrid Dudek**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Dear Members of the Committee, I have lived in Brooklyn for 19 years and in Prospect Heights for 17 of those years. By my count I am about 6 or 7 blocks from the proposed development. I am writing to express my STRONG OPPOSITION to this development. I have followed it's application process for years and am appalled that it has even been entertained. This development does not in any way serve our community's needs and priorities. The "affordable housing" promised uses AMI statistics that have nothing to do with median incomes in this neighborhood, and will not be affordable for this community. They are asking for a rezoning code that is typical of developments facing elevated rails and a height that is nearly 7 times current building limits (and even with that, they are asking for

additional exceptions). This is an outrageous overreach and would represent a terrible and terrifying precedent for the future of this neighborhood. Its construction will create irrevocable damage to the neighborhood, casting Medgar Evars and Jackie Robinson playground in shadow, and destroying the Botanic Garden's capacity to maintain its collections and propagate new plants to sustain the garden. Prospect Heights and Crown Heights have seen an enormous amount of new developments in the last several years, by some reports 3,000 - 4,000 units, many of which remain empty and unrented. There is no need or demand for 1000+ additional units. Moreover, there has been no discussion of how this development will impact quality of life. Already we are inundated with rats that were turned over by new construction. Already we are overwhelmed with trash. Already one of our main grocery stores (Associated at 975 Nostrand) is under threat of development, leaving us with corner bodegas and overpriced boutique markets. Landscaped green space next to a parking garage is a joke, and does not compensate for what will be permanently lost. Zoning restrictions were put in place in the 1990s by Mayor Dinkins with the explicit intent of creating height restrictions and protecting the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Please STOP greedy and reckless developers from disrupting our neighborhood and recklessly destroying a beloved Brooklyn institution. Community Board 9 voted overwhelmingly in opposition to this project, and I ask you to do the same.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 3:29:57 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Marcia Biederman**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

Please do not approve the construction of an out-of-scale, massive building near the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Shorter hours of sunlight will affect the entire garden, as many of the seedlings grown near the proposed site are transferred to beds and containers in other parts of the garden. The garden staffers know horticulture and they predict that the development will be disastrous to this 111-year-old institution. It will also limit the hours of sunlight at the Jackie Robinson playground and at the new garden at Medgar Evers College. This proposed building would indeed cast a long shadow, on ourselves and future generations. As a retired NYC school teacher and parent, I know

how important the garden is to children, to education, and to the urban environment. This is NOT a move toward affordable housing, as the developer strives to portray it. It's an attack on New York and a revered and venerable institution that belongs to the people. Please save the garden, which is a vital part of our community and the whole city.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 3:14:27 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Jon Oshima**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Other**

Details for "I Represent": **Myself, and my spouse - Laura Hulbert**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **Yes**

Additional Comments:

For generations after the developer extracts a profit from our city, two problems that their building will exacerbate will continue having an outsize impact on New York City: they are social inequality and climate change. Given the inequalities that are such a corrosive fact in our city, it would be a terrible mistake to approve this development. It is dominated by what are, for all practical purposes, unaffordable units, in a neighborhood of mostly less well off people of color. Could there be a more potent metaphor for inequality than a shadow cast on a neighborhood

playground and much of a nearby college campus? I ask you - would this proposal have gotten this far if the neighborhood was wealthy and predominantly white? The impacts of climate change become ever clearer and more destructive. In the struggle to change that deadly trajectory, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in an "essential worker" - helping people appreciate and understand the natural world with which we must learn to coexist if we are to survive. The inspiration it gives, and -with your help- will go on giving, is priceless. But to educate, the Garden needs seedlings like a school needs books. How can it provide quality programming for thousands of school children, for years to come, if it can't cultivate the seedlings which are the foundation of all of it's missions? As you know, distrust and even hatred of government has become a destructive and contagious social disease. This is a personal opportunity for you, members of the City Planning Commission, to show to those so infected that your principles and insight will not allow you to participate in advancing this proposal, and so demonstrate that this is not a sham process. Jon Oshima & Laura Hulbert

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 2:38:32 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Andrea Barbieri**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I oppose the rezoning application for 960 Franklin Avenue. I have been a proud member of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden almost since I first moved to Brooklyn over 45 years ago. The garden has provided me with a place for restful contemplation as well as a chance to learn about plants, the environment, and so much else. It has done the same for many generations of Brooklynites. The current zoning was established after the Brooklyn Botanic Garden built its

conservatory in 1987 to ensure the facility would always have sufficient sunlight. Since that time, the sun has continued to rise in the east and set in the west and the BBG has not moved. So the same considerations apply today that applied then. The building height that the proposed rezoning would allow would cast shadows that would impact not just the conservatory but the entire garden and even reach into Prospect Park, another Brooklyn treasure. BBG contains a myriad of plants in a mere 52 acres. Each acre is a precious resource for the whole of Brooklyn. With so many climate issues out of our control, here is an opportunity to ensure that at least one small piece of Brooklyn will not be unnecessarily damaged for a project that even its own neighborhood does not want, as shown by CB9's decision to oppose the rezoning.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 2:20:54 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Edwin Hurdle**
Zip: **11221**

I represent:

- **A local community group or organization**

Details for "I Represent": **I represent the "Fight for Sunlight" campaign which is created by the Brooklyn Botanical Garden.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **Yes**

Additional Comments:

I am against the rezoning because people who love the garden are fans of nature. The garden makes people feel good physically, mentally and spiritually. It is the heart and soul of Brooklyn. If the project goes through where the towers go

up 34 stories, then the people's spirits will be let down by telling a different story to future generations. Since this project will block the sunlight from entering the garden, people who love the garden will block this project from happening. Do the right thing and stop this project from happening

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 2:02:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Karen Gibbons**

Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **a very concerned citizen.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Preserving sunlight for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden should be a no-brainer. I know that people come from around the country and around the world to visit BBG, because I have hosted some of them! Do you think people will come to see a garden that doesn't get proper sunlight? The conservatories, trees, plants, and seedlings need sunlight to

survive. What is the purpose of having so much housing in Brooklyn if the very things that make Brooklyn so special are compromised? BBG has been an incredibly important institution for me, my friends and my family in terms of quality of life. Obviously, the Botanic Garden depends on sunlight. The developers just need a piece of land. Please recommend that they look elsewhere for a spot to grow their towers and leave the incredible, beautiful gardens with sufficient sunlight to thrive.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 12:55:52 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Michael Pacheco**

Zip: **11226**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The 960 Project would hurt the surrounding community and issue in more development of this type that would be detrimental to the community.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 12:11:56 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **sandye renz**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **N?A**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

My name is Sandye Renz and 4 generations of my family have enjoyed the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. In these days of terrifying climate disasters I am opposing a project that will destroy nature. The myth of affordable housing and jobs

is always used as bait to promote bad development. Atlantic Yards, renamed Pacific Park, has yet to fulfill the required affordable housing and jobs it promised and that project started in 2012. Despite dubious promises this development has a much more crucial reason to fail. Pitting the BBG against an environmentally disastrous project should be unimaginable and yet it's happening. This is ludicrous and shameful. It is an honor to have heard and read all the eloquent and strong testimony by the opposition to this misguided proposal. Please take it to heart. Please do not let this shameful and evil proposal succeed so 4 more generations will be able to walk with their children in the garden and not in the shadow of a hideous skyscraper. Thank-you. Sandye Renz

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 10:57:42 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Kate Leisch**
Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning application and am requesting that you join

me in opposition. I'm a resident of Crown Heights and a member of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. I've found my frequent visits to the garden over the last difficult year to be one of the brightest spots of joy. Visiting the garden through all the seasons is a beautiful and peaceful experience, and I share it with every guest and visitor I can. The shade that would be caused by the proposed rezoning and subsequent new construction at 960 Franklin Avenue would be detrimental to the Botanic Garden. This would be a tremendous loss to our community. The shade would also damage Jackie Robinson Playground, which I believe would be another great loss to the community as green spaces for children to play are so important. Additionally, I think the proposed building itself will damage our community. Aesthetically it does not fit with the character of Crown Heights and its lovely historic architecture. It also looks to further gentrification of the neighborhood and fails to provide actual affordable housing. The only thing that stands to benefit from the proposed rezoning and construction are the pockets of the developers and it would be at the great expense of this entire community and a historic living landmark, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. To allow 960 Franklin Avenue to go forward would be a travesty. I hope that you consider these factors and oppose this rezoning and construction. Sincerely, Kate Leisch

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 10:41:09 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Jennifer Turner**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

I am strongly opposed to the rezoning that would rob the Brooklyn Botanic Garden of sunlight. As a Brooklyn resident and member of the BBG who has visited the garden weekly for over a decade, I feel that the detrimental impact of changing the zoning to allow this development is too great a cost. The BBG's gardens will not survive or flourish if the rezoning is permitted. My children attend classes and summer camp at the Botanic Garden, our whole family relies on the garden for much-needed access to the outdoors and nature, and there are many thousands more families who will be similarly impacted.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 9:56:26 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Adrienne O'Hanlon**

Zip: **19144**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **longtime resident of Crown Heights, now in Philadelphia**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

We lived for many years in Crown Heights and the BBG was an essential part of city life with it's green space and incredibly old and thriving collection of plants and trees. We lived in a small apartment with no yard - like many in the city, the BBG was our refuge. Visitors from all over the world make a point to visit BBG. It is certainly always on our list. It is unthinkable that such a resource to the city could be destroyed by this rezoning. Please join the community to protect a collection more than a century in the making; do not allow rezoning or any future outsized development that will destroy already existing resources. Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 9:47:12 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Alice Rubin**

Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am opposed to altering the current zoning laws for 960 Franklin. Any change and I emphasize any, would negatively impact the neighborhood - its dedicated community, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and the face of Brooklyn. If allowed this overgrowth will set a precedent that the people of Brooklyn don't matter, only the developers and those that can afford their buildings. The BBG, an oasis in an overcrowded city, will lose crucial access to sunlight - damaging the plants which help offset the climate crisis. Do not give in to the pressures of the big-money developers. No exceptions, no loopholes. I've lived in Brooklyn for over 35 years, own a home, and have raised my child here. I am the kind of taxpayer the City depends on to finance its infrastructure. I vote, in every election. Do the right thing and vote NO on upzoning! Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 9:19:29 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Heather Sanderson**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

The current zoning is in place for a reason and to remove it would set a dangerous precedent. Once this building goes up, then another and another will follow and the entire area will become exactly like downtown Brooklyn. For now, the one building under consideration is a real threat to the plant life in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The plants are essential beings that are not worth less than humans and need to be considered on an equal footing. These plants and trees, often rare, some over 100 years old, have been protected in this sanctuary of nature in the city for a reason. Our green space is already so limited and, to destroy these would be incredibly harmful, not just to the plants but to the entire ecosystem, and to the mental and physical well being of the people who live here. To change this zoning is outdated, limited, thinking. The future of our city and world will require that we put nature first. That we work WITH plant life to co-create sustainable ways of living in the future. Not simply pave over or take land, as we are used to doing, historically. It is colonial thinking that we must collectively outgrow so that we can live respectfully WITH land and not just ON it. Now is the time to say we will care for not just nature, but for the future generations to come, and will treat them with respect. Now is the time to inspire those generations coming up behind us with this vote so that they learn to innovate and learn how to live differently than we currently do and have in the past. I'm also unimpressed with the developer changing the plans at the last minute, not providing accurate data (or requested data), being out of touch with what affordable truly means (as this building will certainly drive up the costs in the neighborhood and push many of us out--not unlike clearing the land), and add an increased population that is not sustainable within the area. When that additional population arrives, in combination with the reduction of green space and death of plants and trees providing necessary oxygen/water filtration etc., we will be further stretching the already weak ecosystem to a point of damage that simply will not recover. We do not know what psychological and health-related complications will ensue from this move. Mental health issues will likely increase, crime has a strong possibility of increasing, and the safety of our neighborhood is in question. I urge you to strongly oppose this rezoning proposal, and to set a precedent of forward-thinking, just like those people did when this critical zoning law was first put in place in the 90s.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 9:08:22 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Shaina Finnigan**
Zip: **11220**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **Yes**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn botanic garden is historical, culturally and scientifically important to Brooklyn and her people. Let us keep our sunlight

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 9:07:06 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Robert Whiteford**

Zip: **11201**

I represent:

- **Other**

Details for "I Represent": **I am a Trustee of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **other**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

My name is Bob Whiteford. I have been a trustee of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden for the better part of 15 years. People often say that the BBG is an oasis in the city - and it is. The Garden serves the rich and the poor, the young and the old, and people of every race, creed and gender. No one is excluded. It took over a century and a lot of thought and effort to make the BBG the world class jewel that it is. It's value has been recognized beyond our Brooklyn home. The US Postal Service recently featured it on a stamp. They chose the BBG from the best of our national gardens. In a few years no one will remember the proposed building. I want to make it very clear that if this project is built and the Garden is deprived of sunlight the result will be that the sunlight will never be restored - never - and never is a very long time. The local community, Brooklyn, New York City and the world beyond have all made known their love of the Garden and their opposition to the development. I hope that those responsible do the right thing and strike down the proposal to allow a high rise building to block the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's sunlight.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 8:51:01 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Heather Paul**
Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Gardens are for everyone. Babies, toddlers, teens, singles, couples, Black, White, blue, green, elderly, disabled, the blind, turtles, the Koi ,ducklings, birds. And affordable housing is a lottery. Does Bruce Eichner have to build to Heaven so early. No !

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 6:48:58 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Michele Bogart**

Zip: **11231**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

As a resident of Carroll Gardens since 1982, I'm writing to ask that you disapprove the application for the massive 960 Franklin Avenue complex rezoning in Brooklyn. This project would have a significantly adverse impact on the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, one of the nation's most notable cultural and educational sites. The rezoning would severely hinder the institution from carrying out its crucial mandate. The 960 Franklin rezoning is way over scaled. It would cast shadows over a large section of the eastern side of the Garden, thereby harming crucial portions of BBG's plant collections, which obviously comprise a core aspect of its mission. These collections include endangered orchids and ancient bonsai (my personal favorite exhibit at the BBG. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is not just some generic place. It is a unique cultural and biological asset, one that plays a crucial educational role that benefits everyone interested: these people include area residents (including underserved communities with whom the BBG collaborates tirelessly and enthusiastically) as well as members and national and international visitors. The developers have framed the debate as a divide between elite BBG advocates and advocates of affordable housing. This way of approaching the matter is misguided. No one opposes affordable housing, and "non-elites" enjoy the Botanic Garden as much as anyone. It's a question of balance. It is possible to develop affordable housing within the guidelines already established to protect the BBG conservatories and plant collections. These challenges can be reconciled, thanks to the fact that New York City has no end of creative and brilliant planners and architects. It's totally not necessary to destroy a unique cultural institution while creating affordable housing. The BBG is significant to me personally. I joined last summer, and visit frequently. It is an exceptional source of calm, joy, and knowledge. I'm so impressed with the incredible work of its staff, rich array of plantings, varied terrain, and informative signage. Millions, like me, benefit from the BBG. Its future must not be threatened by the 960 Franklin development. I urge DCP to preserve this exceptional national resource by turning down the application in its current form. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 5:45:03 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Anne Neal Petri**
Zip: **20036**

I represent:

- **Other**

Details for "I Represent": **National Association for Olmsted Parks**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Dear City Planning Commission: The National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP) opposes changes to zoning rules that would threaten the landscape and plant collections of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG). The BBG is a world-renowned treasure, designed by the Olmsted Brothers Firm starting in 1910 (Project No. 03960), whose scenery and diverse resources have been serving Brooklyn and the broader community for over 100 years. Existing zoning rules for low-rise buildings protect the conservatories, greenhouses and nurseries where plants are grown for the entire BBG. However, developers now seek to have zoning rules changed to allow a new building complex with 34-story towers that would block as much as three hours of sunlight daily in spring, summer and fall. The proposed development is less than 300 feet from the BBG structures and just 150 feet from the garden, and would cause lasting damage to the site and its collections. We oppose any zoning change and respectfully ask the Planning Commission to put an end to this request. The existing zoning restriction, which has protected the BBG by capping building height since 1991, should be affirmed. As Frederick Law Olmsted and the Olmsted Brothers understood, parks and landscapes are essential to our social, physical and mental well-being. This has surely been borne out during the pandemic when Olmsted landscapes proved essential places for respite and restoration. At a time when so many individuals – young and old – have little access to nature, it would be tragic for the city to permit a misplaced high-rise development to damage a national, indeed global, resource whose research and educational activities are essential to understanding ecological challenges facing all of us. Please reject the application for zoning change and reinforce building height restrictions that protect the scenic, cultural, and environmental benefits of this great institution. Respectfully submitted, Anne Neal Petri President and CEO The National Association for Olmsted Parks is the only national organization dedicated to protecting and preserving the life, leadership and legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted. NAOP is serving as the Managing Partner of Olmsted 200, the celebration in 2022 of the bicentennial of Olmsted's birth, www.olmsted200.org. Olmsted and his successor firms designed thousands of exceptional landscape projects across the country, including the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. NAOP's Olmsted Network includes more than 60 friends groups and conservancies around the country dedicated to protecting Olmsted parks and landscapes.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 5:08:14 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Joseph van der Naald**
Zip: **11226**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I oppose in full and outright the rezoning of 960 Franklin Ave. To rezone the property and erect an enormous building would threaten the viability of Brooklyn Botanical Garden, and would do so only to build more units of housing that will likely be unaffordable to the median Brooklynite. The trade off here is thus unfair and would damage a public institution to introduce more private goods for the wealthy and upper middle-class.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 2:29:46 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **aldo bianchi**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

To Members of the City Planning Commission: As a long-time Brooklyn resident and avid donor and visitor to Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, it pains me to see the commercial interests of one developer override the interests of Brooklynites to enjoy the pastoral and serene beauty of the Gardens. Isn't it enough that climate change is upon us spelling doom to our planet's eco-system? Why encourage and approve a monstrous high rise that brings vanity to its residents, riches to its developer and untold harm to the Gardens? Surely men and women in leadership positions can find a compromise by scaling back the size and scope of the proposed building so that the Gardens can continue its historical mission of bringing an undisturbed oasis to the people of Brooklyn. Thank you, Aldo Bianchi 330 1st Street Brooklyn, NY 11215

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 1:33:23 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Arianna Fishman**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am seeking your support against the 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning application. I am a Brooklyn resident and Botanic Garden member - the Garden has been a refuge for me during the pandemic and your office should not choose private developers over accessible green space. The Borough President has the ability to recommend that this application be disproved, and should listen to me, 56,000+ petition signatories, and Community Board 9's unanimous vote to disapprove, and do the same.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 12:57:03 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Priscilla Newbury Newbury**

Zip: **80305**

I represent:

- **Myself**
- **Other**

Details for "I Represent": **Brooklyn Botanic Garden Board of Trustees**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am a former 40 year resident of Brooklyn and a forester and remain a Trustee for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. BBG touches residents of Brooklyn, NYC and beyond through education, research and ecosystem maintenance. Light is the lifeblood of BBG, for without light, plants, shrubs, trees cannot exist. The 960 Franklin Ave rezoning is an existential threat to BBG and as a result to all who thrive on the Garden's production, wherever we live.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 11:00:36 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Maor Gordon-Guterman**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

In a city already dominated by buildings and concrete why would we allow for the potential damaging of our botanical gardens, a rare urban oasis? Brooklyn should not strive to be Manhattan and should remain green. I urge you not to support this proposed rezoning.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 9:56:58 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL
Attachments: To.NYC.planning.commission.docx

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Maureen O'Brien**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Other**

Details for "I Represent": **Brooklyn Botanic Garden**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Good morning NYC Planning commission Chair Marisa Lago, vice-chair Kenneth J. Knuckles, Esq., and members of the NYC planning commission. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Maureen O'Brien; I'm the community field manager at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. I work with the people of Brooklyn in community gardens, block associations, urban farms and tree beds. I'm a long-time Brooklyn resident and homeowner. Like Mayor Bill DeBlasio, I strongly oppose the 960 Franklin Avenue development. This project would negatively affect the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and surrounding neighborhood with disorderly growth and inappropriate development. This project must be denied with no modifications.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 at 10:59:20 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Leland Black**
Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I'm a Brooklynite and a BBG supporter.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The proposed condo tower at 960 Franklin Avenue, if permitted, will forever despoil western Crown Heights by congesting the neighborhood, straining public services and plunging the center of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in deep shade. There were, and still are, sound reasons for Mayor Dinkins to impose the current zoning requirements for the neighborhood.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 at 10:37:02 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Paula Jarowski**

Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I live in Brooklyn and visit the Brooklyn Botanic Garden often.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

These are the days when we have to make decisions about the future of the City we want to live in and especially about our natural environment. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a haven for all from the concrete buildings and sidewalks surrounding it. The height of the proposed building at 960 Franklin Avenue will permanently damage BBG's collections and landscapes by blocking needed sunlight. The 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning proposal should not be approved.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 at 9:19:57 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Craig Rimby**
Zip: **11232**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I am a resident of Brooklyn for over 23 years and a supporting member of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am urging the Commission's rejection of the rezoning request for this project. It would create significant harm to the neighborhood, Brooklyn, and the city for a number of reasons: 1. The scale of this project is way out of context for the neighborhood. 2. The project would cast huge shadows during much of the day on Jackie Robinson Playground and Medgar Evers College. 3. Most importantly, the impact of this project on Brooklyn Botanic Garden would be devastating. It would cast significant shadows over important and historic plant collections. As a supporting member of BBG, I revere this treasure of Brooklyn for everything that it does for our borough and our city. Not only does it provide an oasis of calm and beauty, but its benefits to the community are priceless, For example: the Greenest Block in Brooklyn program builds tremendous community pride. Its educational resources for Brooklyn children could not be matched anywhere. Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 at 5:11:57 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Maria Ramos**
Zip: **11226**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I am volunteer / member at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

My name is Maria Ramos. I am a retired School Psychologist and a member of the United Federation of Teachers.* I live in Flatbush and I am opposed to the 960 Franklin Ave rezoning application. For the past 38 years, I have been a regular visitor having brought my daughters to the Garden since their infancy. In 2013, I became a BBG volunteer. I mainly spend my time in the Discovery Garden working with toddlers and school children. I usually dress up as a pollinator or bee, and other times a lady bug. I read books about nature to children while facilitating hands on experiences through play, observations, games, planting, and art. We have a very wonderful program called Early Access. It is only for children with special needs who come and use all their senses to explore this wonderful environment. BBG is a vital educational resource to all children. If the towers are allowed to go up they will kill this precious Garden, destroying a special part of our community. It will be akin to the Brooklyn Dodgers leaving Ebbets Field all over again. Lastly, We must save BBG, it is a first responder to climate change. (*for identification only)

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 at 3:20:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL
Attachments: 960 Franklin ULURP DCP testimony.docx

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Enid Braun**
Zip: **11205-2305**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I am both a user of and art instructor at BBG.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **Yes**

Additional Comments:

I ask you to reject the proposed Zoning Map Amendment and related actions at 960 Franklin Avenue with no modifications. Knocking off a floor or two or shifting bulk and tower placement as has become (sadly) usual with such applications will neither suffice nor fool anyone. Frankly, the fact that you have allowed this proposal to proceed to this point is shameful. My opposition is primarily because of the effect on the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG). The 1991 zoning for the area was designated specifically after shadow studies indicated harmful impacts from taller structures on the Garden's historic collections. Mysteriously, the Department of City Planning has failed to produce these original studies in response to Discovery in a lawsuit regarding a rezoning proposal for nearby developments at 40 Crown and 931 Carroll Streets. I live in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, but BBG is a public space that belongs to all residents of Brooklyn, the entire City, and, arguably, all visitors and lovers of public gardens throughout the world. As an art instructor at BBG since 2006, I know my adult students travel from Upper and Lower Manhattan, the far reaches of Brooklyn, Staten Island and Queens for the education programs offered at BBG. Plants from the greenhouses become still-life subjects for art classes as well as for public school education programs for children. I teach plein air landscape painting classes in the gardens themselves when weather permits. Without question, it is a love of nature as well as visual art that attracts attendees: the Garden functions as a Commons for an extended community, bringing together people of varied ethnicities and ages who would never otherwise meet. If this fraught era has taught us anything, it is that opportunities to bring together divided communities are more and more crucial to civic life. BBG itself has taken the political risk of opposing this particular ULURP, while Mayor de Blasio equivocates, citing competing public interests, i.e. the need for housing vs. open green space. Brooklyn Community Board 9 voted to reject it in response to massive public outcry, understanding its role to safeguard a unique jewel within its boundaries. I'll leave it to others to argue the failure of this project to create sufficiently affordable permanent housing for New Yorkers, who will in turn, certainly be dismissed as NIMBY by the usual Open New York types. The fact is that the developers bought the site understanding the enhanced value of its proximity to BBG, and knowing the existing zoning context--designed to protect BBG as a unique public asset--and should be bound by those limits. It is your responsibility now to preserve an irreplaceable, one-of-a-kind open space resource that provides both environmental and cultural benefits for the physical and mental health of residents. Doing otherwise makes a mockery of the notion of Planning and brands the Commission as a mere handmaiden to real estate interests.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 at 1:16:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL
Attachments: CBID Fight for Sunlight Testimony.docx

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Mary Beth Crosby Carroll**
Zip: **11218**

I represent:

- **Other**

Details for "I Represent": **Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats (CBID)**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **Yes**

Additional Comments:

Testimony by Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats submitted to City Planning Commission Hearing re 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning Proposal July 29, 2021 The members of Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats (CBID) strongly urge the City Planning Commission to reject any development proposal that would harm the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Members of CBID voted to support the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's "Fight for Sunlight" campaign and we are submitting this testimony to urge the City Planning Board to preserve the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG), one of Brooklyn's most valuable assets. In terms of the proposed 960 Franklin Avenue rezoning proposal, we believe that the studies conducted by BBG's experts demonstrate that the best choice for the community is clear -- to keep the current limited height zoning laws in place. If the developers are truly interested in creating housing for all price points, there are many available locations where they can do this. But there is only one Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden provides education for children of all ages and from all neighborhoods. It is a major haven for the pollinators that our food supply depends on but are declining all over the world. It is a research institute for sustainable practices. It preserves endangered plant species, and it provides valuable green space to all Brooklyn residents. Moreover, Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a major tourist attraction, bringing thousands of visitors and millions of dollars into Brooklyn every year. Over the years, Brooklyn taxpayers have invested in many capital projects to improve the BBG and sustain its operation. Don't let the value of those investments be diminished by the proposed development. The zoning laws around the Garden were designed explicitly to protect this valuable Brooklyn asset. If 960 Franklin Avenue were given a variance it could set a precedent for more tall and massive buildings to be built in the area surrounding BBG. This would endanger valuable portions of the Garden and ultimately could create a situation where the entire garden could be in shadow. To allow the proposed 960 Franklin Avenue buildings to be built -- just 150 feet from the Garden's most important sites -- would be an act of vandalism on a valuable cultural and scientific icon and would be a crime against the families and children of Brooklyn. The greenhouses, conservatories, and nurseries that the Garden depends on would be compromised, threatening the conservation, research, and educational efforts that benefit all of Brooklyn. We hope the City Planning Commission will join the members of CBID and thousands of other Brooklynites in supporting the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's "Fight for Sunlight" campaign to prevent critical areas of the Garden from being overshadowed by the proposed development at 960 Franklin Avenue. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is one of the jewels in the crown of NYC and a national treasure that must be preserved. Testimony respectfully submitted, Mary Beth Crosby Carroll Executive Board Member of CBID and Member of CBID's Climate Change and Environmental Justice Committee

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 at 12:25:48 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Brianna Harden**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**
- **A local business**

Details for "I Represent": **Myself and my business (which is located in the vicinity of the proposed building)**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am opposed to the development on account of its unprecedented scale and devastating shadow impacts on Jackie Robinson Playground and the conservatories, greenhouses, and nurseries at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG). This building would not address the neighborhood need for affordable housing, and it would be in no way appropriate for the neighborhood. Please consider the needs of the many long-time neighborhood residents and patrons of the BBG as a priority over the selfish agenda of the few wealthy developers!

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 at 10:32:04 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Emily Greenspan**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am strongly opposed to the proposed development at 960 Franklin Avenue. The development will have a profound negative impact on the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, surrounding neighborhood, and the entire borough. We depend on the BBG as a place of respite, beauty and community education. The development will diminish greatly all these wonderful characteristics of the Garden. Please deny the application outright, and no modifications, either! Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 at 10:20:10 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Anne Kostick**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am a proud, 40-year resident of Brooklyn who has lived in several central neighborhoods and supported the borough and its people with community activities, memberships, donations, and elbow grease. I've been a member of Brooklyn Botanic Garden for decades. I host tourists from around the world and insist they visit our wonderful Garden. My husband, who moved here in 1980, remembers walking in through the Eastern Parkway entrance to the Cherry Esplanade and simply sitting quietly under the trees for an afternoon. I trained as a Citizen Pruner there, as did thousands of Brooklynites. I worked to win the Greenest Block in Brooklyn contest, along with my neighbors and many other blocks. Adults and children have learned botany, gardening, composting, and cultural pursuits there. In short, Brooklyn Botanic Garden has been and is a vital organ of Brooklyn and its residents. Nothing in the borough compares to it. Now its very existence is threatened. The current zoning regulation was put in place by wise stewards to protect this precious and irreplaceable treasure. Nothing has been presented that is more important than the preservation of the Garden--certainly not a building of 39 or even 35 stories that could be built anywhere in the borough. In spite of the promise of affordable housing, the trade is too costly for Brooklyn. The community directly impacted, as well as the borough, have spoken: they have unequivocally rejected this rezoning proposal. The city must follow the clear voice of the community. Withdrawing this protection cannot be reversed. Once this Garden is gone it's gone forever. Is a tall building in that exact location worth the life of this precious space, the BBG? The benefit of the new building is small compared to the enormous risk to the Garden and to the people of Brooklyn. Continue to safeguard its future; do not allow the sacrifice of the BBG! Thank you for your attention, Anne Kostick
Foxpath IND anne@foxpath.com 917.623.0596

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Sunday, July 25, 2021 at 5:04:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Jennifer Thorpe-Moscon**
Zip: **11214**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

As a lifelong resident of Brooklyn, I reject this project outright without modifications. Brooklyn's Botanic Garden is a treasure for our borough and must be protected. I am also a homeowner in Brooklyn, visit the Garden regularly, and am active in many local groups. The Environmental Impact Statement for this rezoning showed "that the 421-foot towers, which the rezoning would allow construction of, would cloak parts of the nearby Botanic Garden in shadow for several hours each day year-round — potentially devastating the flower emporium's plant life" (source: <https://www.brooklynpaper.com/ulurp-brooklyn-botanic-garden-towers/>). This rezoning would destroy our beloved garden, which is not only a beautiful respite for residents but also an important educational vehicle with BBG's many classes, some of which I have participated in. I hope you will join us in standing against it. We must protect Brooklyn Botanic Garden for future generations, and prevent these towers that are out of scale with the neighborhood.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Sunday, July 25, 2021 at 3:57:58 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Alex Griswold**
Zip: **02460**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **Myself, my wife, my son, my daughter, my daughter in law, and my grandson. All except the first two live in Crown Heights. We are all paid-up members of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am shocked and appalled that the City Planning Commission would even consider a re-zoning to permit a development that would block sunlight from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, one of the unique gems of the borough. Plants need sunlight to thrive, and so do the people of Brooklyn. Shading the BBG is morally repugnant to me. The law was put in place for a reason, and nothing has changed except the excessive greed of the developers.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Sunday, July 25, 2021 at 3:25:03 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL
Attachments: POBN Testimony DCP 960 Franklin .pdf

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Sandy Reiburn**
Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **A local community group or organization**

Details for "I Represent": **Preserve Our Brooklyn Neighborhoods**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Preserve Our Brooklyn Neighborhoods NYC Department of City Planning 120 Broadway NYC, NY 10271 July 25th, 2021 In Opposition to 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning To Chair Lago and Commissioners: Preserve Our Brooklyn Neighborhoods ("POBN"), as advocates for historic preservation of streetscapes, buildings and Parks in Brooklyn, supports its neighbors and neighborhood organizations involved in the same concerns throughout Brooklyn and throughout wider New York City. After carefully looking into the rationale of the purported 'benefits' of the 960 Franklin Avenue rezoning, we are in unanimous agreement that this rezoning must not proceed-no 'modifications'-no clever parsing of guidelines! The BBG's documentation and review have clearly cited that the shadow impacts of 960 Franklin will harm the treasured and unique Brooklyn Botanic Garden; its plantings will be decimated; and the public green space that belongs to all New Yorkers will be defaced. Invading and anomalous towers, which will be the result if the ULURP is ratified, are hyped as justified on the basis of so-called 'affordable housing'. As long as the reliance on de facto bait and switch Federal criteria AMI 'tiers', which have incurred so much neighborhood hostage taking and displacement (substantive data now shows), the raison d'être of handing over livable and human-scale blocks for predatory greed, is as phony as a wooden nickel. To add insult to injury, this attempted encroachment brazenly defies the prior regulated constraints for new outsized buildings in this district -for the same reason- that shadows will reach Prospect Park and the BBG. It was unacceptable then and it is unacceptable now. One hopes to be forgiven to have to ask: was that ruling even worth the paper it was written on? The sun is still in the sky and plants still need sunlight to flourish! The BBG has served to invite the world –tourists and the curious to come visit Brooklyn. The BBG has served to be a green respite from the harsh impacts of the pandemic and for decades, as an oasis from the cement towers and the hustle/bustle of the city streets. The BBG is a neighborhood economic equalizer –this precious place is where all incomes, races, ethnicities meet to relish Nature's gifts...even as we're negatively impacted by the harm Man has done to our planet. Shall we do more here? The alleged moral imperative of 'affordable housing' is, like so many predatory rezoned projects, which the DCP has discouragingly 'blessed' –nothing less than bait and switch. But, anyone not under a rock (nor those who obviously have financial skin in the game such as Continuum and Mr. Eichner) will say, this up-zoning attempt is a farce. This is NOT about affordable housing...! It can never be accepted as a 'public good' while destroying the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The question is -how much of this will be your legacy if you vote to hand over the sky and the sunlight and ignore the thousands of community protesting members and the hundreds of thousands of Brooklyn Botanic Garden visitors each year? Preserve Our Brooklyn Neighborhoods, and our members therefore urge the Commission to reject this proposed rezoning. Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Sincerely, Sandy Reiburn –President Preserve Our Brooklyn Neighborhoods 100 South Elliott Place Brooklyn, NY 11217

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Sunday, July 25, 2021 at 2:39:07 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **DANIEL GURALNICK**
Zip: **11205**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **Concerned citizen / voter.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **Yes**

Additional Comments:

This tower will block ****necessary**** sunlight for the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, an institution and resource that is for the entire community and has been for over 100 years. I do not oppose development, or towers, or even buildings that block some light from the BBG. But this project would block far too much sun and as a result cause enormous and irreparable damage to one of the neighborhood's and city's finest public resources. Worst of all, it would all be for the benefit of a few developers and a handful of apartment users, making the benefits comically negligible compared with the costs. Please don't allow this building, whose own documents admit will have serious negative consequences for the BBG. Approve a smaller building so that it doesn't block sun that the plants at the BBG need. These developers will still make money, and there will be still be homes for people. All without destroying a community resource. Thank you. Sincerely, Daniel Guralnick

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Sunday, July 25, 2021 at 1:55:10 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Katherine Patton**
Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

The proposed development at 960 Franklin Avenue with its Manhattan-style luxury high-rise towers on the site of a former spice factory in Crown Heights, would be completely unaffordable to me and most of my neighbors, and further the cycle of displacement. District 35 already hosts a glut of luxury housing. What we need is housing that poor, working, middle-class people, and retirees can afford. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG) is one of New York City's crown jewels, 52 acres of beauty and peace in the heart of Brooklyn, our most populated borough, a community treasure that we must preserve at all costs. As a result of the proposed zoning changes at 960 Franklin Avenue, the BBG's plant collections are under serious threat from this massive building complex, just 150 feet from the Garden. 960 Franklin's outsized towers would block hours of sunlight to these spaces and cause lasting damage to BBG, a world-renowned treasure whose plant collections have been serving the community and fostering generations of environmental stewards for over 100 years. The proposed towers would also cast long shadows over neighboring Jackie Robinson playground, preventing our children from playing in the sunshine. The towers' glassy walls' glare would confuse and kill migratory birds. Their construction would prevent truly affordable housing or green space in their stead. I urge you to read the detailed 23-page report prepared September 2019 by Bill Logan (Urban Arborists ISA Certified Arborist NY-0528a), regarding the potential effects of the shadows that will be cast on BBG's greenhouses. As a 31-year BBG volunteer, I know the importance of these greenhouses. They are used for propagation and education. Pre-pandemic I taught important environmental topics to school children. Each child that attends gets to take home a plant that relates to the subject their teacher chose (e.g. trees, flowers, plants we use, ecological exploration). These plants are grown at BBG. The children "pot up" the plant they will take home, surrounded by plants in the greenhouses. In addition to the hands-on experiences, the kids get a tour of BBG. Their morning at BBG leaves a lasting impact on the children (our future). How many of these children will get to travel to a desert or rainforest? I strongly oppose any rezoning at 960 Franklin Avenue. Brooklyn does not need another tall building, especially in this location. The endangerment of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden is dire. Please vote against the 960 Franklin Avenue rezoning.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Sunday, July 25, 2021 at 1:02:36 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Patricia Nolan**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am totally against any development that impacts the environment of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. This area is already protected by zoning changes put into place several decades ago to ensure the longevity and health of the Garden. Nothing has changed that should cause revocation of protection of the garden. While true we need affordable housing this project provides minimal affordable units. By lowering the number of floors to avoid casting shadows on the garden, this project be an asset to the community. Why sacrifice the garden when housing can be built in other multiple locations..the garden has one location!! Please ensure the garden continues to exist without compromise. Thank you

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Sunday, July 25, 2021 at 12:06:34 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Sarah Beranbaum**

Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is such a value to all of Brooklyn. It brings in tourism to the borough and provides a beautiful respite for residents. I have been going to the BBG since I was a child and know how devastating it would be to lose the sunlight due to a tall building. I implore you to not build this new building.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Sunday, July 25, 2021 at 12:03:33 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Susan Freytes**

Zip: **11234-3123**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **Ms.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I oppose the proposed 960 Franklin Avenue rezoning in Crown Heights. It will severely harm the research and educational work carried out by the BBG. Shadows would be cast by these huge building towers. Permanent damage would be done to the garden and its projects. Many plants would die and it would be ugly and wasteful. Developers don't care if they ruin our parks and botanical gardens. They will strip our community of all green space and beauty if allowed to do so. We shouldn't have to worry about sending our children into devastating barren city environment of the future.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 24, 2021 at 8:22:11 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Deanne Walters**

Zip: **11213**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am a member of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Over the past year I have been there more than ever as a beautiful outdoor space to safely meet friends. It is a critical green space in a very urban city. I think it is critical to protect the sunlight that helps the plants that make the beauty of the space thrive. The rezoning of 960 Franklin Ave must be stopped.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 24, 2021 at 6:44:32 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Nina Troy**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I am a resident of the Flatbush/Prospect Lefferts Gardens neighborhood.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

This project would have a lasting negative impact on the Garden's greenhouses, conservatories, and nurseries. These 34 story towers are completely unnecessary, the focus should be on making the already existing housing safer and more efficient, not building a giant eyesore that is a visual representation of gentrification and corporate greed. In a time where we are already experiencing the negative impacts of climate change, it is imperative that we demonstrate our commitment to protecting and maintaining nature, not destroying it more.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 24, 2021 at 4:52:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Danielle Blake**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

Brooklyn Botanic Gardens is what brought me to live in Prospect Lefferts Gardens. In the spring of 2016, I worked at BBG as a part time garden educator, and though I'd never spent much time in Crown Heights or Prospect Lefferts Gardens, I fell in love with the area each week as I came to and from work. The following year, my family purchased a home in PLG, and I have lived here ever since. I oppose the rezoning to protect the wonderful plants at BBG, but also to protect the growth of the neighborhood. The garden is such a wonderful sanctuary and the neighborhood would not be the same without it.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 24, 2021 at 4:07:41 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Fredrica Brooks**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I have lived in Brooklyn for over 60 years – I grew up in Flatbush, and now live just a few blocks from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. I've been going to the Garden since I was a child, and in fact my father had a Children's Garden plot there 100 years ago. I am a longtime member of this most precious jewel of Brooklyn, and the current zoning was wisely put in place 30 years ago to explicitly protect this jewel. The proposed change to zoning would enable construction of 34 story buildings at 960 Franklin Ave, right across from the garden. These buildings would block critical sunlight, causing irreparable, permanent damage to the collections. And with all this damage this development would not even provide significant truly affordable housing units, nor sufficient parking, as became evident through the testimony presented to Community Board 9. In the past 17 months, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden has been a place of respite for all of us who were otherwise trapped in our apartments by the pandemic. We need no more proof of the value of this precious Brooklyn resource. I strongly urge the City Planning Commission to leave the current zoning in place to protect the garden and the community! Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Saturday, July 24, 2021 at 3:09:07 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Elissa Bernstein**

Zip: **11216**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

In an era of trying to fix the human damage to the environment and protect the natural world, a high-rise blocking the sun from two city institutions dedicated specifically to flora -- the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens and part of Prospect Park-- is unconscionable. By itself and as a gateway to other rezoned high-rise developments in the neighborhood it is wrong. I oppose this project completely.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 24, 2021 at 11:49:30 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Charles Blank**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Statement in Opposition to 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning My wife and I are longtime members of, and very frequent visitors to, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Within the last few years my wife has lost much mobility and we visit the Garden frequently with me pushing her in a light weight wheelchair. During the pandemic, we, like many people, sought solace in the outdoors and visited many parks and other outdoor venues that remained open. We were thrilled when the Brooklyn Botanic Garden opened again, and have visited more than once a week through the seasons of daffodils, magnolias, cherry blossoms, tree peonies, bluebells, lilacs, and roses. We can say that there is no site that we visited during the pandemic that combines the beauty and inspiration of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden with such great accessibility for people with disabilities. We leave it to the staff of BBG to detail the harm that the proposed development on Franklin Avenue would do to the Garden, but we would add that any diminishment of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden would be a great loss to many communities, including those who have limitations in their mobility and their family and friends who often accompany them to the Garden. Charles Blank 10 Plaza St. East, Apt. 12J Brooklyn, NY 11238

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Saturday, July 24, 2021 at 10:15:05 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Jonathan Earle**

Zip: **11226**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I'm a local resident.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I strongly urge the City Planning Commission to reject the proposed rezoning and protect the Brooklyn Botanic Garden for future generations. The city recognized the immense value of the garden when it established the existing zoning regulations. Nothing warrants their alteration. The garden was and remains an urban oasis, a place where all Brooklynites can find peace, joy, and inspiration. The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us how important such places are. Please ensure that the garden can continue to serve the community. Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 24, 2021 at 9:29:21 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Attachments: 960 Franklin Additional Comments L. Grifo July 24, 2021.docx

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Rev. Lynne A. Grifo**

Zip: **11209**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **Brooklyn resident, visitor to BBG for 67 years. Former City Planner and CPC intern.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am a resident of Bay Ridge; a member, donor and a volunteer of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG). The Garden has been for me a beloved place of peace and beauty for 67 years. I urgently oppose the rezoning of 960 Franklin and ask the Commission to preserve the current R6A contextual zone. The development site borders a cultural treasure with a recognized and widely-valued role in the education of youth that will be significantly harmed by the project. CPC has stated its opposition to the current proposal. I urge you to preclude any form of up-zoning for the site because only the existing R6A contextual zone, which was created specifically to protect and preserve the Garden's mission and collection, can sufficiently protect BBG from significant harm. Since the adoption of the R6A zone, the sun's qualities, the needs of plants for sunlight, and the need for affordable housing —none of these conditions have changed. City residents' need for sunlight has increased given extensive over-development of high towers. Expert studies commissioned by BBG show that the proposed project's shadow-cover will cause significant damage to the plant collections over time. The Developer's EIS acknowledges this harm. The proposed out-sized towers will rob hours of sunlight as noted in the EIS from the local residents; users of the nearby public playground; and, shadows will rob light from Medgar Evers College. The DEIS blatantly places all the responsibility upon BBG to save its plant collections from significant harm due to loss of sunlight. It is ludicrous for the Developer to tell the Garden to move the extensive plant collections and conservatories out of harms way, or to switch to ineffective artificial light. 960 Franklin, and any alternative high-rise on the site, threatens the mission and future of the Garden as we know it and does so in a pandemic year(s) that has already resulted in a large loss of revenue for BBG. 960 Franklin will undermine the extensive and costly improvements BBG has carried out in recent years, funded with public and private funds. I worked professionally as an environmental planner before my ordination. I have written and edited EISs and ULURP applications and worked for a housing developer in the Bklyn. I am a strong advocate for affordable housing in the city. However, I respectfully ask CPC to scrutinize the project EIS's flatly contradictory statements: first, that the "Proposed Actions...have the potential to bring in a higher income population..." This understatement is clearly a fact. Second, the DEIS also says that the rezoning "...is expected to help preserve affordable housing in the area..." This is wishful thinking given the massive scale! The Developer has failed to show that 960 will not rapidly exacerbate gentrification and significantly adversely impact land use. In their testimony at the Community Board and the Borough President's hearing, all the community residents I heard speak said that this project does not serve the community.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Saturday, July 24, 2021 at 7:14:02 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Erica Lessem**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

As a Brooklyn resident who relies heavily upon the Botanic Gardens for my physical and mental health, especially during the pandemic, I urge you to reject this proposal. Many of Brooklyn's huge new developments remain vacant. If the pandemic has showed us anything, we do not need more giant buildings that change our sky- and land-scapes. We need open spaces and views, a place for nature, and a safe place to commune. Blocking natural light to the gardens will be devastating to the flora and fauna that rely on the gardens-- including and especially us humans! Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 at 11:30:37 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Phyllis Starkman**

Zip: **11201**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The proposal will limit sunlit to the Botanical Garden which would harm the beauty and a much needed garden. It would be an unnecessary intrusion to a public space of very needed space for quiet, fresh air and community opportunities for being in nature.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 at 8:22:41 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Matthew Bernstein**

Zip: **11216**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The proposed development will have a very negative fundamental impact on the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Blocking sunlight from significant areas of a botanic garden for extended periods of time threatens its viability. BBG is one of two major public botanic gardens in NYC, and one I visit frequently. "Shading" such a garden undermines its purpose and success as a major public amenity. This is NOT the same as reducing sunlight in areas of occasional public or private presence. This is the equivalent of taking water out of the tanks at the Coney Island Aquarium.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 9:57:17 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Victoria Rosenblatt**

Zip: **11230**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I am a lifelong resident of NYC and a long-term member of the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

I am seeking the City Planning Commission's support against the 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning application. The proposed rezoning would have a severe negative impact on the conservatories, greenhouses and nurseries in the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. I am a NYC resident and have spent most of my life in Brooklyn. BBG has been an integral part of my love affair with the city. It is truly the jewel in the crown of the Brooklyn cultural institutions. I have considered it my home since I first started going there independently when I was a student at the Brooklyn Museum Art School in the late '60s-early '70s. Sitting in the old Zen garden, reading the inscriptions in the Celebrity Path and walking through the Cherry Esplanade were calming and inspirational. I always look forward to seeing the daffodils, tulips, magnolias and bluebells in the spring. When my son was an infant I wheeled him there at least once a week. Once he was old enough, I enrolled him in the Kindergardeners program, where he proudly grew vegetables to bring home. I am currently involved in the volunteer program, greeting guests who come to visit from all over the world. It is our responsibility to protect the garden for ourselves and our future generations. I hope you will vote against this rezoning proposal. VICTORIA ROSENBLATT 779 Argyle Road Brooklyn, NY 11230 917-833-2236

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 9:57:02 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Yvette Choy**

Zip: **11211-5010**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I can not make it to the City Planning Commission's public hearing. I want to express my staunch opposition to the application for 960 Franklin Ave Rezoning. I have been visiting the Brooklyn Botanic Garden for 40+ years. It is a safe, peaceful, educational and loved space for all New Yorkers and its visitors. Cutting off the sunlight and in effect, the growth and nurturing of the Garden's plants, would destroy the educational work and peaceful respite enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people every year. Building high-rises on Franklin Ave will only benefit the few investors and owners of the 960 Franklin Ave enterprise. The City should side with the people, Brooklyn's beautiful history and the joy that the BBG brings to all people, young and old. Please oppose rezoning 960 Franklin Ave just to benefit a select few. Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 9:34:45 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Elizabeth Braswell**

Zip: **11222**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **Elizabeth Braswell**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden provides respite, peace, green space and joy to New Yorkers who desperately need it. The idea of giant towers that cast shadows over a living, growing resource that belongs to all of us is disgusting and hateful. My grandfather and grandmother enjoyed the Garden during the Depression when they couldn't afford any other recreation. They took my father and his sisters when they were kids, and eventually my dad brought me and my sister. He delighted in showing us the great-great grandchildren of the same koi he used to watch in the Japanese Pond in the 30s. I take my own children now and get pictures of them under the cherry blossoms every spring. Four generations of my family have gone to the garden through financial ups and downs, world wars, and the constant change of NYC. I hope to take my grandchildren there, and that it is still as green and vibrant as it is today.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 9:11:36 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the

public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Glenn Daily**

Zip: **10128**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **Glenn S. Daily**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am a member of both the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG) and the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG). BBG is one-fifth as big as NYBG, and the garden experience is already affected by tall buildings in the vicinity. You can relocate the proposed development. You can't relocate the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 7:29:36 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **SUSAN MAYHAM**
Zip: **11230**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **N/a**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**
If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

BBG is a crucial member of the community. I lived across the street at 1015 Washington and the Garden was my front yard. I had a plot in the Children's garden for 10 years and to this day I try to visit as many times as possible each year and am a member. I vehemently oppose the 960 Franklin project as designed as the much needed sunlight will be blocked. My other main concern is transit required for such a gigantic tenancy will stress the B and Q train lines already very overcrowded. The station not built for the passengers it now handles.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 7:10:20 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Valria Small**
Zip: **11231**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

I can remember going to the gardens for most of my childhood. I always considered the Brooklyn gardens the most unique and prettiest of the city gardens. The City of New York has invested millions of dollars for the continued upkeep of this treasure over many years, and it would be ashamed to lose such a valuable asset because of this rezoning proposal. We have seen recently the dire consequences of cost-cutting mismanagement and disregard for environmental restrictions playing out in Florida. Of course, it is not the same situation, but the damage that would affect the gardens if this proposed building plan went into effect would be just as dire. It would also alter the community socially, financially, and economically in ways that will not be fully realized any time soon. Therefore, I oppose anything that would endanger the existence of the gardens as we know it.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 6:48:09 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **David Gross**

Zip: **10022**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed rezoning of 960 Franklin Ave. in Brooklyn. I have been coming to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden since I was a student at Pratt Institute. The Botanic Garden is a treasure. The current rezoning plans will block much needed sunlight from the conservatories, greenhouses, and nurseries which the Garden depend on to grow its plants. Brooklyn Community Board 9 recently voted overwhelmingly against the project, after hearing lengthy, impassioned testimony from many who value the Garden. Current zoning protects the Garden, by capping building height at the location. These protections must remain in place to protect the Brooklyn Botanic Garden from harm which would be caused by the proposed high rise development. I sincerely hope that you will support the recommendation of Community Board 9, and reject the rezoning application for 960 Franklin Avenue, Brooklyn. Thank you! David Gross

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 4:10:39 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Gina Quinzani**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **Yes**

Additional Comments:

The stress to all Brooklynites: human, plant, and wildlife in these new times of climate change have not been seen as an important consequence of this huge development project. Many of us have no private green space and those who willingly decimate our existing ones are short sighted and ignorant. Here in Brooklyn we share our crowded neighborhoods and need some open and green space so we can nurture our humanity and be in nature. Destroying the quality of life that has been nurtured in the face of relentless overdevelopment is plain cruel. Most of us don't have roof gardens and private gardens. We need the botanic garden to be here for all the future school kids, neighborhood folks, future scientists and nature lovers. It's predicted we'll suffer more heat waves and rising temperatures in the future. How can we even call ourselves human beings when we so willingly destroy an important environmental neighborhood resource? We need to protect this space for us all. It's clear those that are in favor of

this project don't need a public garden or live in NYC.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 4:01:12 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Jerret Engle**

Zip: **111231**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **My husband and I are longtime residents of Carroll Gardens and frequent BBG visitors.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

What I love and value most about the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens is that its respite and beauty appeal to an amazing cross section of Brooklynites. I love seeing them there, in versions of their various nations' and cultures' Sunday Best, snapping pictures and enjoying family and the nature of Nature. BBG is an irreplaceable asset to everyone in our community. My husband and I profoundly object to plans to build a highrise that will obstruct sun and damage this precious gardenscape. It is essential to Brooklyn's uniqueness as a place and it must endure for future generations.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 3:53:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Zachary Lennon-Simon**

Zip: **11216**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanic Gardens played a large role in my childhood development. It was my first job and where I spent every summer since I was 6 years old. I am extremely disappointed that we are even considering approving the building of a tower that would directly negatively impact the BBG's plants and programs. What kind of Brooklyn do we wish to live in? Profits or plants? City kids need the gardens and it would be horrible if the gardens didn't have as much sunlight as they need in order for all of their wonderful plants to grow.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 3:52:37 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Agnes Pletnia**

Zip: **11233**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **% Agnes Pletnia**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Brooklyn Botanic Garden's plant collections are under serious threat from a proposed massive development complex of four buildings, including two 34-story towers at 960 Franklin Avenue just 150 feet from the Garden. Towers of this size would block hours of sunlight to the Garden's 23 conservatories, greenhouses, and nurseries, which grow plants for the entire 52-acre Garden site and its community programs. The Brooklyn Botanical Garden is a priceless part of the community and should not be threatened by the greed of property developers.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 3:31:50 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Elisabeth Jamison**

Zip: **11231**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a refuge in an urban jungle. It is the culmination of extraordinary talent and meticulous planning for well over a century resulting in an oasis for wildlife and us, humans who need to connect with nature. All studies point to the need for humans to walk in nature to calm our nervous systems and thus our minds. It is not hyperbole to say that the protection of this garden is indeed the protection of the people (and animals) of Brooklyn... not to mention the very trees that were planted 100 years ago and stretch towards the sun. We do not need another towering building. WE NEED THE BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN. Please protect it & the people of NYC and say NO to the rezoning of 960 Franklin.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 3:21:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Brenda Pagan**

Zip: **11225**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I and a majority of my neighbors in Ebbets field apartments are totally OPPOSED to this development project or any so called modified 960 Development. The current zoning rules must be kept in place to protect the Botanic Garden, Prospect Park, Jackie Robinson Playground, all current or future residents. The project would ruin numerous cultural institutions, depriving scientists, students, tourists of the light, plants and educational benefits from Botanic Garden. I urge you to VOTE NO to this project. Preserve our Garden & community. Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 3:00:20 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Emily Harting**

Zip: **11221**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The land under consideration for rezoning here (960 Franklin) was specifically set aside to protect the light and to be a sun-shed, for the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. Rezoning of 960 Franklin to allow a 34 story building will figuratively and literally wither and destroy vast swaths of the Gardens. Plants need sun. Sun will be blocked by this building, ergo, plants die and with them, parts of the BBG. One of the most amazing elements of the BBG is the way the different formed landscapes blend into and rely on one another - destroying a section (or sections) destroys the whole. The BBG is a city, state and national treasure. It's been a source of solace and wonder for 110 years ESPECIALLY in the last 18 months of the COVID-19 pandemic where many folks visited multiple times a week, seeking

some space, fresh air, and hope/inspiration for the future. Please don't let short-term, selfish greed and endless scraping for more money by real-estate developers supersede the needs of this century old treasure. Protect the sunshed, say no to rezoning of 960 Franklin, and save the BBG.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 2:11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Elizabeth Peterson**
Zip: **10567**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am a longtime supporter of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and have been a member since 1998. While I lived in Park Slope, Brooklyn (for 23 years) I considered the garden to be my sanctuary of peace, beauty, and a source of nurturing for my soul. It was and is a place for renewal of spirit; and even though my husband and I now live in Westchester, we are still members and still visit several times a year. As you know, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a part of the fabric of NYC and the boroughs. It is renown world-wide. It's educational and conservation programs play an important role in the continuation of plant knowledge and health in the world. The loss of up to four hours of sunlight a day to the

Garden's nurseries, conservatories, and greenhouses threatens to harm many of BBG's plants, including endangered orchids and hundreds-year-old bonsais. And these buildings are where plants for the entire Garden are propagated and grown, so blocking sunlight to the conservatory complex threatens the entirety of the collection, both indoors and out. The Garden's greenhouse facilities were intentionally situated on its easternmost border because the area gets more sunlight than anywhere else on the campus. Shade on Garden facilities would compromise their ability to offer free workshops to community gardeners and to serve Brooklyn's youth (more than 200,000 of whom visit each year) with free, year-round STEM educational programs. Brooklyn Botanic Garden has a 100-year history of providing respite to New Yorkers and free education to schoolchildren. Its compromise would be a loss to all New Yorkers and the world (as it attracts and brings thousands of visitors from around the world). Please stand against this and all proposals that endanger the health of a beloved and crucially important institution. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Elizabeth Peterson 5 Hilltop Drive Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567 914-737-2228

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 2:10:02 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Carol Levy**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I am a member of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The BBG is one of the gems of New York, and everything should be done to support, preserve and develop it. An enormous building which would cast a shadow on the BBG makes no sense. It is inappropriate for the neighborhood and would adversely affect an important local asset.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 2:04:26 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Rachel Fedde**
Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I live a block north of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and it has been an absolute lifesaver for my mental health during the pandemic. Even before, was a treasured go-to spot for peace and quiet and will remain so for me long after this crisis passes. So, I am deeply concerned about the proposed development's height overshadowing the Garden and the Robinson Playground. Artificial sunlight is not a substitute for the real thing when it comes to plants. If this development goes through at the proposed height it endangers this mainstay of my neighborhood. The shadow of

these buildings would block sunlight to the greenhouses, the water lily gardens, the conservatory, and the lovely recent watergarden -- as well as the educational plots that are so important for engaging youth in our area. I **strongly** urge the Planning Committee to join me in opposing the 960 Franklin Ave rezoning and the proposed 34-story buildings. Sincerely, Rachel Fedde

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 2:02:21 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Shirish Desai**
Zip: **11201**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Brooklyn Botanical Garden must not be placed in jeopardy by building such large complex. Developers must abide by current zoning. Planning Commission must do the right thing and reject rezoning and the project as currently designed.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 2:01:49 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Trudy Lowenbraun**
Zip: **11218**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**
If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Please don't let this development adversely affect the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 1:56:47 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Susan L**

Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **myself**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Please stop this development of yet another luxury skyscraper. Leave our beloved Brooklyn Botanic Garden alone. There is no reason for building for the wealthy in a neighborhood that is overwhelmed with luxury towers.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 1:52:13 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Jonathan Spear**
Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is unique, a resource not only for the surrounding community but for the city. Indeed, it drives tourism that benefits our entire city. It needs to be protected. Reject this proposed zoning change and protect the Garden. In fact, there are lots of other spaces that can be developed - and developed in ways more aligned with

NYC's needs for growth and affordable housing. Please reject this proposal outright.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 1:48:35 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Brian Davis**

Zip: **11434**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

In a big metropolitan like New York its great to have a space such as the Brooklyn botanical garden (BBG). The BBG put on culturally rich events throughout the year such as the Sakura Matsuri(Japanese Spring Cherry Blossom

Festival). They have such a wide and diverse selection of plants that me, a resident of Queens travel to Brooklyn to see it. The rezoning would destroy this haven of nature in the Borough, so I ask that it be put to a halt and tell them that NYC spaces for tranquility, growth and awe is not for sale! Thank You.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 1:47:16 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Harvey Fishman**

Zip: **11235**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is one of the great public spaces of New York City. To have it bespoiled for profit is insane and tragic. No City can ever have enough park space and what there is should never be surrendered. The City

Planning Commission holds in trust the well-being of our great city and to meekly give that up for other than municipal gain is pure sell-out and treason. Harvey

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 1:42:55 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Christopher Caltieri**

Zip: **11375**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

As a member of the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens I urge you to reject the rezoning application completely, and not allow

any modifications to the application. The promised Union jobs & any “affordable” units are not worth the immediate degradation of the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens’ essential hours of sunlight & the long-term destruction of one of the world-renowned Crown Jewels of NYC life. Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 1:32:25 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Teri West**

Zip: **11226**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for “I Represent”:

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Dear City Planning Commission, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

proposal and urge you to REJECT this proposal without modifications. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a common good and a valuable community resource. To rezone the area around the Garden and erect a building that will block critical sunlight would be a serious infringement upon this resource that is used and valued by thousands of Brooklyn residents, students, NYC residents, and visitors from around the world, and me. At a time when the environment is at risk through global warming--witness the outrageous heat and fires in the Pacific NW, and increasing floods-- putting at risk the plants and nurseries at BBG is akin to adding gasoline to an already burning fire. BBG provides education to Brooklyn school children, connects them to the land they otherwise would not have access to, and teaches them about the value of diversity in the plant world. If you allow the rezoning of 960 Franklin you will be contributing to the severe diminution of the BBG and therefore you will be responsible for depriving children of this knowledge, resource, and experience. What will become of the planet? The BBG is one of the crown jewels of Brooklyn. If you allow this to happen under your watch as guardians of City Planning, then your Commission will forever be associated with destroying this priceless gem. I urge you to unconditionally OPPOSE without modifications, the 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning proposal and join the overwhelming majority of Brooklyn and NYC residents who also oppose this heinous proposal. PLEASE, do the RIGHT thing for Brooklyn, for NYC, and for the world. Respectfully, Teri West

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 1:30:21 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **paul maguire**
Zip: **11201**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Our Cultural institutions are what make our city a great place to live and also a great place for tourists to visit. The proposed towers would put parts of the park and some of its architectural gems, the greenhouses, in excessive shade for much of the day. The contents of the greenhouses, exotic plants from around the world, would suffer from lack of natural light. The park is a sanctuary. The idea of having massive towers looming over it is unacceptable. It would ruin the experience of visiting the park in many ways, and impede the educational work provided by the park and its facilities. I oppose the rezoning of this grossly out-of-scale project without modifications. Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 1:25:05 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Laura Vert**

Zip: **11218**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

As a Brooklyn resident and longtime member of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, I beg you to reject the proposed rezoning of 960 Franklin. Protective zoning is essential to protect the unique and irreplaceable plant collections of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden from shadows that will impede their abilities to thrive. The garden is essential for the conservation of plant species, as a stopping place for migratory birds, as a community gathering space, and as a peaceful respite from urban life. While increasing housing density is important, upzoning must be located where it will not destroy one of Brooklyn's greatest treasures.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 1:17:35 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Fanette Pollack**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I am an attorney at law. Retired from the practice of law.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

This project is utterly out of character with the neighborhood where I have lived for 32 years. It also spoils a neighborhood jewel—the BBG. I am also informed that the applicant did not act in good faith in submitting this proposal. It should be rejected in all respects.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 1:17:14 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shelloe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Anne Schotter**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **I am a Brooklyn resident who visits the garden frequently with family and friends, including my 3-month granddaughter.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

Now that my son and daughter-in-law have a baby,I appreciate the BBG even more than before. They live nearby frequently visit with their baby. The 960 Franklin project threatens the plantings in the garden that benefit the whole community, without adding significantly to affordable housing.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 1:12:01 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Eric Kochhar**

Zip: **11217**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am writing in opposition to the 960 Franklin rezoning ahead of your hearing on the proposed development next week. While the desire to add affordable housing in the area is an admirable one, this project is doing it in the wrong ways. This is true for two reasons: 1) The development would do irreparable harm to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The garden is a resource for all of Brooklyn, NYC, and the world. Creating shadows on the garden for large periods is completely unacceptable. 2) Most of the proposed "affordable units" aren't actually affordable for the area. If the developer really wanted to provide affordable units for the area they would drastically decrease the AMI qualification criteria and decrease rent prices on the units. In short, there are much better places to put true affordable housing that won't damage the NYC treasure that is the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The developer should be allowed to develop as of right only with NO changes to the current zoning. Thank you, Eric Kochhar

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 3:54:39 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Peggy Nelling**
Zip: **11216-2096**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

The Gardens are a vital green space for the surrounding communities, and the 960 Franklin development would be sacrificing the beautiful resource of the plants in the garden, which benefits many, for the private use of the few.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 12:51:18 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Jasmine Melzer**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **A local community group or organization**

Details for "I Represent": **Board member and Secretary of Good Neighbors of Park Slope, an aging-in-place membership community.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I am writing in staunch opposition to a zoning variance at 960 Franklin Avenue. I am on the Board of Good Neighbors of Park Slope and have been a Supporter of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden since 1978. The existing zoning protection was enacted in 1991. Nothing has changed that could justify allowing construction beyond the as-of-right 6 stories to a 39 story pair of twin towers. To grant this change would create an irreversible precedent throughout NYC. The damage to BBG will be incalculable; the damage to the Prospect Heights neighborhood would be huge. The affordable housing is not actually affordable; union support is for temporary jobs, while the damage will be everlasting.. Please do not approve the rezoning which has no redeeming benefits for the neighborhood or Brooklyn as a whole.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 10:05:40 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Suzanne Igarteburu**
Zip: **11238**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project?
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

As an employee of Brooklyn Botanic Garden, I am deeply aware of the negative impact that up to four hours of sunlight per day can have on our plant collections. In a typical year, these collections are enjoyed by over 800,000 visitors and used by 130,000 children in education programs. This reach is far greater than the few that will live in the proposed towers, which are grossly out of scale with the community.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 10:04:32 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Katie Murphy**

Zip: **11209**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **Yes**

Additional Comments:

My name is Kate Murphy, I am the curator of the Tropical Pavilion at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. I'm writing to voice my opposition to the 960 Franklin Ave Proposed Development. To rezone this area and allow buildings of this scale to go up in such close proximity to the Garden will not only cause great harm and even death to the existing plant collections but it will also limit what is possible for future plantings. The Tropical collection requires sustained access to sunlight in order to survive. A building of this scale will shade out the Conservatory pavilions, significantly decreasing access to sunlight. There are plants in our collection that can no longer be found in the wild. It is our responsibility to ensure their well being. Aside from conservation, the Garden also serves its direct community through educational programs and access to green space. I myself started my career by completing the horticulture certificate program offered at the Garden. BBG is an invaluable resource and cultural institution that provides job training and opens doors to highly skilled jobs. Please help to protect this 111 year old institution, and ensure its survival for many more years to come. Thank you.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 9:21:03 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Maeve Turner**
Zip: **11226**

I represent:

- **Myself**
- **Other**

Details for "I Represent": **Horticulture staff at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and elected Union Shop Steward for the Horticulture shop of DC37 Local 374. Representing up to 30 full time year round union jobs in Horticulture.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

I have been a member of the horticulture department at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden for 7 years, and the union shop steward of the horticulture department for 3. I am writing to express my sincere opposition to the proposed development at 960 Franklin Ave. As has been well documented these towers would cast shadows over the garden that would cause irreparable harm. Not only would the plants that we are working tirelessly to protect, cultivate, and display be threatened, but so many of the invaluable programs that the garden provides for the community would be at risk as well. In addition, casting a shadow over the garden's conservatories puts our full time long term union jobs at risk as well — if the plants aren't able to grow, the need for people to care for them, educate the public about them, or maintain the facilities that house them declines. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden has been an important respite for New Yorkers for more than 100 years, providing education, green space, science and an open space where New Yorkers can breathe. I urge you to reject any proposal that puts this public health amenity at risk.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning
Date: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 8:59:26 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)
To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Charlotte Bloomberg**
Zip: **10025**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent": **A very concerned citizen deeply disturbed by the harm this project will cause to BBG, the playground and the surrounding community.**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**
If yes, are you now submitting new information? **Yes**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **Yes**

Additional Comments:

We all recognize the need for affordable housing in our city, but this particular project does not check that box. This not even a green building; the environmental impact is not lessened by a reduced footprint. Indeed, the harm it does to BBG alone should be enough to send this developer back to the drawing board to create a structure within the existing zoning that will add to the community, not devastate it.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Monday, July 19, 2021 at 5:53:06 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Joyce Jed**
Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**
- **A local community group or organization**

Details for "I Represent": **Good Neighbors of Park Slope**

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **Yes**
If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **No**

Additional Comments:

These comments are being sent on behalf of the Good Neighbors of Park Slope, an aging-in-place organization with close to 600 members living in Park Slope and the surrounding neighborhoods. Our goal is to create a supportive network of members to make life in our neighborhood easier and more fulfilling, while maintaining our autonomy and quality of life in our homes. We are writing to oppose the 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning application which threatens the continuing viability of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden by casting enormous shadows into the garden which interfere with important plant growth. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a major local institution cherished by our members, and has been an important part of what makes aging in this area a wonderful experience. Many of us visit regularly, work as volunteers, take courses, and would find it devastating if the quality of the garden were to deteriorate. Anything that destroys the Garden will destroy an important part of our pleasure and satisfaction with aging here. Please don't let that happen. Please do not approve the rezoning which would have a negative impact on our community and our lives. Thank you, Joyce Jed, President Board of Directors Good Neighbors of Park Slope
Website: goodneighborsofparkslope.org Email: goodneighborsofparkslope@gmail.com

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 17, 2021 at 3:46:50 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Marvin Ciporen**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**
If yes, are you now submitting new information?

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project: **Yes**

Additional Comments:

I am a life-long resident of Brooklyn and urge you to reject any development proposal that would harm the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG). The Garden's future is a great personal concern for me. I grew up in a poor immigrant neighborhood in Brownsville. My classmates and I loved visiting the BBG. In school many of us bought flower seed packs for 1 or 2 cents from the Garden and learned to grow and take care of them in boxes we placed on our fire escapes. My daughters took their first steps on uneven surfaces in Cherry Lane and now my grandchildren are exploring nature in the Discovery Garden. I want the BBG to be there for their grandchildren. I recognize that you are often called upon to weigh competing interests. However, as you read studies conducted by experts (including those who aided the Developer to complete his application) that describe the irrevocable harm the proposed 960 Franklin Avenue Development will do to the Garden, you will see that the best choice for the community, Brooklyn and New York City is clear. There are many sites that a Developer could build on. But there is only one Brooklyn Botanic Garden. It has a sensitive ecosystem and cannot be moved. The BBG is one of the most important assets Brooklyn and the City have. It provides education for children of all ages and all neighborhoods. It is a major haven for the pollinators that our food supply depends on but are declining all over the world. It is a research institute for sustainable practices. It preserves endangered species. And it provides valuable green space to all Brooklyn residents. BBG is also a major and growing tourist attraction, bringing thousands of visitors and millions of dollars into New York. Taxpayers have invested millions of dollars in capital projects and to sustain BBG's operations. Don't let the value of those investments be diminished by the proposed towers. The zoning laws around the Garden were designed to protect it. The proposed development would overturn that protection and would endanger the most valuable portions of the Garden. The greenhouses, conservatories, and nurseries that the Garden depend on would be compromised, threatening their conservation, research, and educational efforts that benefit all New Yorkers. Moreover, as every member of CB 9's Board who spoke at CB 9's public hearing about this application emphasized; the Developer's claim that the project will provide additional affordable housing is not true! Members of CB 9 unanimously voted against the proposed rezoning. And two parts of the Board's final recommendation stated that: "... the large influx of market rate housing in the district has the potential to create upward pressure on current housing stock rental pricing, [and] ... the affordable housing options proposed by the developer are insufficient given a significant portion of the community district falls below the proposed income bands,". Thank you in advance for acting to protect one of Brooklyn's and New York's "crown jewels" for this and future generations.

Subject: Comments re: C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Date: Saturday, July 17, 2021 at 1:48:28 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Public Hearing Comments (Do not reply)

To: Jonah Rogoff (DCP), Stephanie Shellooe (DCP), BrooklynComments_DL

Re. Project: **C 200184 ZMK - 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**

- Application Number: **C 200184 ZMK**
- Project: **960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning**
- Public Hearing Date: **07/29/2021**
- Borough: **Brooklyn**
- Community District: **9**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received by the 10th calendar day following the close of the public hearing will be considered by the lead agency.

Submitted by:

Name: **Laura Ciporen**

Zip: **11215**

I represent:

- **Myself**

Details for "I Represent":

My Comments:

Vote: I am **opposed**

Have you previously submitted comments on this project? **No**

If yes, are you now submitting new information? **No**

I have attended or will attend the City Planning Commission's Public hearing on this project:

Additional Comments:

I have lived near the Brooklyn Botanic Garden all my life. I grew up feeding the fish, begging my parents to pay to go into the Japanese garden (and once it was made free, exploring and marveling at it at every opportunity), wondering who eats the kiwis, hoping to catch Daffodil Hill in full bloom, and petting my favorite trees as I went past. I still do most of that, except feeding the fish, more than 40 years later. The Garden is an oasis. It represents beauty, nature, calm, high achievement in landscaping arts, an escape, and education. It's presence brings diverse populations together and unites us, even if for a few minutes or hours, in enjoyment and wonder. It is a place where children and adults who spend their days walking on hard concrete, picking produce from store shelves, and being closed in by over-shadowing buildings can have their world open up. At the BBG our world becomes one of grass, flowers, trees, fish, birds, and the occasional rabbit. Children can grow produce that they pick from a vine or stalk. We can look in every direction and see only open beauty, including the secluded woods full of the plants which used to grow wild in the very concrete places we are used to walking. If this rezoning project goes forward, much of that oasis will be overshadowed. Its plants will not grow, and neither will we and our children. It will be closed off by the walls of buildings just like everywhere else. It will not feel like the escape so many of us need, especially in times like these where travel is difficult or for people who cannot afford to leave the city to breathe fresh air. Leave us this spot of beauty and calm. Leave us this freedom. Build elsewhere.

MAS Comments to the City Planning Commission on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for 960 Franklin Avenue—CEQR No. 19DCP095K

August 6, 2021

For more than two years, the Municipal Art Society of New York (MAS) has extensively analyzed the development proposed by Continuum Company for 960 Franklin Avenue from both planning and environmental perspectives. While we recognize the need for affordable housing in Crown Heights, we strongly object to the development on many levels. This includes the astoundingly cavalier approach the developer has taken in the public review process, most recently with the introduction of a 17-story alternative proposal after the Commission’s review session and when all public comment opportunities had been exhausted.

Second, as elaborated on below, the development’s unprecedented scale and devastating shadow impacts on Jackie Robinson Playground and the conservatories, greenhouses, and nurseries at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG) do not reflect sound planning and would by no means be appropriate for Crown Heights.

Moreover, though the proposal has been touted by the developers as addressing the lack of affordable housing, only a fraction of the proposed housing units would be affordable to the average Crown Heights resident. The project also utilizes questionable rationales to justify the site’s proposed R9D zoning and the height and density of the towers. For these and other reasons we urge the Commission to recommend disapproval of the project.

Transparency and Accountability

As participants in each stage of the public discussion of this project, we too were blindsided by the new 17-story proposal presented at the August 26 Commission public hearing. Despite the considerable time we have spent studying the project scoping documents and the DEIS, it was not possible for MAS or anyone else to fully understand the details of the revised proposal. The fundamental issue is that the public has a right to understand and comment on the proposal being considered by the Commission.

We understand that the Department of City Planning has determined that they will not review the new 17-story alternative. We commend that decision. Our comments herein are focused on the proposal that was certified by the Commission.

Project Scale

Located just 200 feet from BBG, the proposed development is situated in a 13-block section of Crown Heights that was rezoned in 1991 to encourage residential development “in keeping with the existing neighborhood character and minimize the potential shadow impact upon the Botanic Garden from any new residential development.”¹ Yet at 1.4 million gross square feet,

¹ New York City Planning Commission, Commission Report. 25 Sep. 1991.
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/about/cpc/910293.pdf>

960 Franklin Avenue would be one of Brooklyn’s largest developments in terms of area. Its two 39-story towers (421 and 424 feet tall) would be more than six times taller than what is currently allowed under zoning, and taller than any other residential development in over a one-and-a-half-mile radius.

Numerous public officials have objected to the scale of the development. Comparing the buildings’ bulk to what one would find in Downtown Brooklyn, Commission Chair Marisa Lago said that the development is “without precedent” and inappropriate for an area that has narrow streets and lacks immediate proximity to subway stations.² New York City Council Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo stated that there is no precedent for zoning higher than R8 outside of Downtown Brooklyn. “To even consider a development of this size and scale outside of Downtown Brooklyn,” she said, “the public benefits would have to be massive and the site uniquely appropriate.”³ Even Mayor de Blasio called the development “grossly out of scale” and said that he would not support it.⁴

In addition to general concerns about scale, MAS maintains that the justification for R9D zoning on the site is flawed to begin with. According to the Department of City Planning, R9D districts are created specifically to accommodate towers facing elevated rail lines along the street. Yet this is not the case for the 960 Franklin Avenue site. Rather, the site abuts the Franklin Avenue Shuttle rail line which is landlocked in the middle of the block and recessed below grade.

Shadows

Brooklyn Botanic Garden

The DEIS makes it clear that the new building would cause significant adverse shadow impacts on BBG. Of the 23 conservatories, greenhouses, propagation spaces, and nurseries studied within BBG, project-generated incremental shadows would reach 22 of these sunlight-sensitive resources. Incremental shadows would have a particularly destructive impact on the plants within the greenhouses, especially during the winter. Incremental shadow duration would range from one hour and 54 minutes in December to a staggering four hours and 22 minutes in June, meaning that many sunlight-sensitive plants would not receive the amount of direct light they require to survive.

The DEIS also includes a separate Arborist Report that further assesses the impacts of incremental shadows on the garden. The study concluded that there would likely be long-term changes to the plants over time because of incremental shadow, such as a possible reduction in flowering, turning of flowers towards light sources, slowing of the rate of plant growth, bending

² New York City Planning Commission Review Session, 1 Feb. 2021.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9ESolnqTKY>

³ Council Majority Leader Laurie A. Cumbo. 960 Franklin Avenue Public Scoping Hearing, 12 Mar. 2019.

⁴ Kim, Elizabeth. “In Surprise Shift, Mayor De Blasio Says He Opposes Controversial Crown Heights Towers.” *Gothamist*, 21 Dec. 2020. <https://gothamist.com/news/surprise-shift-mayor-de-blasio-says-he-opposes-controversial-crown-heights-towers>

or stretching of plant bodies, and an overall decline of plant health. The impacts would be greatest for high light-demanding plants in the desert, Mediterranean, and tropical collections and would likely be cumulative over years. John Trager (curator of desert plants at the Huntington Library in San Marino, CA), one of the consulted experts, went so far as to conclude that the shadow impacts “may alter the ability of garden to carry out its mission.”

MAS and BBG have gone a step further to study the impacts of the proposed development on available daylight⁵ and on specific plant species. We found that all BBG greenhouses would experience more than 10 days of lost daylight, with over 30 days of lost daylight in the tropical and aquatic collections. This is primarily because shadows will significantly increase across BBG collections, from 1 to 2 hours in March, up to 3.5 hours in June, according to our study. Again, most affected collections include the tropical, aquatic and desert greenhouses, which are sensitive to even modest reductions in available light.

Jackie Robinson Playground

According to the DEIS, shadows from the proposed development would also cause a significant adverse impact on Jackie Robinson Playground, a vital neighborhood resource. New shadow durations would range from one hour and 15 minutes in December to four hours and 45 minutes in June. In fact, the playground would be totally shrouded in shadow on the March, September, and June analysis days. New shadow would be cast on both active and passive recreational areas including tables and benches, play structures, and the basketball courts.

MAS and BBG’s own study of thermal comfort⁶ found that during the months of January and February, when sunlight is especially necessary for warmth, areas of the playground would lose more than 2.5 hours of beneficial sunlight. Overall, Jackie Robinson Playground would receive just 2.6 hours of thermally beneficial sunlight in winter, far less than the threshold of four hours which we consider ideal.

The impacts would be greatest on the basketball and handball courts as well as the fitness equipment in the southern end of the playground, parts of which would receive less than two hours of winter daylight. However, the play structures and passive seating areas at the northern end of the playground would also experience up to an hour less of thermally beneficial sunlight compared to the as-of-right condition. The result will be a decline in the usability of these facilities during the months of the year when sunlight is most critical to their success as recreation spaces.

⁵ Daylight encompasses direct and diffused sunlight, as well as light reflected from buildings and other surfaces

⁶ Thermal comfort is the human perception and experience of a space in which the body is neither overheated nor excessively cold. It is a collective measure of solar radiation, wind velocity, air temperature, and humidity, as well as one’s clothing insulation and metabolic heat levels.

Medgar Evers College

Medgar Evers College is located diagonally across the street from 960 Franklin Avenue. While not evaluated in the DEIS, it is important to note that the institution contains an outdoor student courtyard that would be shadowed during certain times of year by the proposed development. Specifically, MAS found that during the winter, when sunlight is especially critical for thermal comfort, portions of the courtyard would experience a loss of up to 1.5 hours of beneficial sunlight.

Surrounding Streets

MAS found that the reduction of daylight in streets would be about 1.5 hours per day on average during the winter in select locations. Moreover, several trees along Franklin Avenue, McKeever Place, and in Jackie Robinson Playground would experience a loss of more than nine growing season weeks with six or more hours of direct sun per day (which is considered ideal). Trees along Montgomery Street and in the Medgar Evers College campus would also lose several weeks of adequate sunlight during the growing season.

Mitigation

34-Story Alternative

The developer has identified a 34-story version of the development that achieves the same level of density but reorients the buildings' bulk as a possible mitigation measure for shadow impacts. However, the mitigation is minimal, as incremental shadows on BBG would be reduced by just 16 to 39 minutes, and only two to three minutes on Jackie Robinson Playground. The DEIS concludes, "These reductions in shadows duration...would not fully mitigate the impact as sensitive resources would continue to receive insufficient sunlight as a result of an increase in incremental shadows." For Jackie Robinson Playground, it states, "The 34-story Development would not result in any noticeable change to the duration of incremental shadow coverage..."

Other Mitigation Measures

Other potential shadow mitigation measures identified in the DEIS include adjusting the implementation and extent of rooftop netting, shades, and supplemental lighting at BBG. The DEIS also suggests that plants could be relocated to facilities outside the range of the project's incremental shadow. We do not find these as acceptable solutions.

Sunlight- and temperature-dependent greenhouse plants cannot simply be moved, as they have very specific growing requirements. Additionally, the Arborist Report notes that several experienced greenhouse managers and curators said that artificial lighting would not be able to imitate the energetics or match the wavelength range of natural light. Some curators noted that to make a difference, these lights would need to be located so close to the plants as to obscure them or make them aesthetically displeasing.

It should also be noted that the public and private investment in the facilities and gardens of BBG is enormous, literally millions of dollars. A cavalier suggestion that those investment are expendable or easily replaced is unacceptable.

Affordable Housing

The developer has touted the affordable housing aspect of their proposal but the actual levels of affordability in their plan would not meet the needs of Crown Heights residents. According to the DEIS, the median household income in the project's half-mile study area is \$57,995 (based on 2013-2017 data). The development would comprise a total of 1,578 dwelling units, of which 50 percent (789 units) would be affordable and workforce housing. It is assumed that:

- 316 units (20 percent of the total number of units) would be for households with an average of 50 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI). This is equivalent to \$38,850 for a family of three as of 2015, which is the analysis year used in the DEIS.
- 158 units (10 percent of the total) would be for households with an average of 80 percent AMI (equivalent to \$62,150 per year for a family of three as of 2015)
- 158 units (10 percent of the total) would be for households with an average of 100 percent AMI (\$77,700 for a family of three in 2015)
- 157 units (10 percent of the total) would be for households with an average of 120 percent AMI (\$93,240 for a family of three in 2015)

In other words, 80 percent of the affordable and workforce units would be for households with median incomes that are higher than the neighborhood median. Those units provided voluntarily by the developer (beyond the requirements of MIH) would be tens of thousands of dollars above the median.

Large-Scale General Development Special Permit

To be approved, the project requires a Large-Scale General Development Special Permit and zoning waivers to reduce minimum lot coverage from 33 to 11.4 percent (a 65 percent reduction). The developer is also seeking to waive tower coverage regulations that require the building's top four floors to be set back 50 to 80 percent above 165 feet in height. With the waiver, the developer would be able to build with 100 percent tower coverage with no setbacks on the uppermost floors. According to the DEIS, these modifications would "promote better site planning and urban design on the Development Site" and "allow slender, uniform towers."

We are unconvinced of this rationale. Despite our requests for further clarification, the DEIS fails to sufficiently demonstrate how the waivers would improve site planning and urban design. Nor is it clear how adding bulk and eliminating setbacks on the top floors would result in more slender tower design. Instead, we believe the Special Permit and zoning waivers are part of a deliberate strategy to facilitate taller towers with larger and more valuable upper floor area than would otherwise be allowed.

Conclusion

MAS believes that the proposal for 960 Franklin Avenue should be a complete non-starter due to its sheer scale, lack of true affordability, and harmful impacts on critical and beloved open spaces. Equally important, 960 Franklin Avenue would set a dangerous precedent for future area development, effectively giving the green light to projects that ignore the 1991 contextual rezoning and its purpose and function.

It is telling that virtually every public official with a say in 960 Franklin Avenue's approval has expressed extreme concern or outright disapproval of the project. This is not a proposal that can be tweaked on the margins and made palatable. MAS strongly urges the Commission to disapprove of the project.

Comments by Rev. Lynne A. Grifo, continued from form:

Please also note these other concerns:

- the impact of intensified competition for on-street parking has not been mitigated;
- excellent visual quality within the Garden will be significantly harmed and cannot be mitigated—huge towers will replace the sky-views from many vantage points;
- no FRESH food store is planned yet the site is located in a designated FRESH area.

“The proposed project would potentially lead to a significant adverse impact to natural resources, specifically to natural resources found in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, due to project-generated shadows,” wrote David Cuff, Director of Environmental Review at the Parks Department, in a memo sent to officials at the Department of City Planning on Dec. 20.” Cuff wrote:

- Warm Temperate, Tropical, and Desert Pavilions located in Greenhouses D, E, and F, which would suffer some “long-term cumulative” effect as a result of “even very limited winter shading.” All three greenhouses would receive up to 1.25 hours of additional shading in the wintertime. Additionally, the memo state’s that the Desert Pavilion would lose up to 3.25 hours of sun between March to October (although not explicitly stated, it’s assumed this is meant on a daily basis), likely leading to the declining health of cacti and other specimens within the exhibit.
- Tropical and sub-tropical species located in the Aquatic and Orchid House, which would lose up to 3.75 hours of sunlight between March and October, and 1.75 hours of sunlight during the “critical winter months.” The memo goes on to state that, as a result of the loss of sunlight, some orchids would likely no longer flower.
- Growing areas for the Desert, Tropical, and Warm Temperate pavilions, and the orchid collection, which have “high sunlight requirements.” These facilities would lose up to 3.75 hours of sunlight between March and October, and up to two hours of sunlight in during the winter. —The Brooklyn Paper 2/18/2020

The BBG and its advocates are in this fight for the long-haul! Thank you for registering this testimony.

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA
NEW YORK CITY & VICINITY DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

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CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Calendar Information Office – 31st Floor
120 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10271

July 30th, 2021

Re: 960 Franklin Ave Rezoning

Members of The Commission:

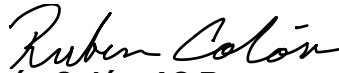
I am a lifelong Brooklyn Resident as well as an Appointee of my Local Community Board. I am also the Senior Brooklyn Area Standards Representative for thousands of hard-working members of the **NYC & Vicinity District Council of Carpenters (NYCDC)**; many of which live and/or have extended family and/or strong ties to Brooklyn. It is on their behalf that I submit this **Statement of Testimony in Favor** of the **960 Franklin Ave Rezoning**.

While the **NYCDC** has heard the concerns of the community, contrary to claims from a vocal minority, we contend that with over 100 Members and their families living within the immediate area of the proposed rezoning, we too are stakeholders in this community. It is for this reason that we can not in good conscience stand opposed to this rezoning. It would be hypocritical for the **NYCDC** to be opposed to responsible development given the economic conditions the city is facing. Consider the “Open Shop” environment Organized Labor has been forced to deal with in recent years. Developments such as the one proposed at 960 Franklin Ave do not often come with **Wage Requirements, Safety & Skills Training, or Health and Medical Benefit Standards**. The need for the latter of these has become even more apparent after the experience of Essential Construction Workers during the ongoing Pandemic. The developer in this instance is committed to ensuring such Standards are implemented as part of their overall plan.

This will be a Union Financed, Union Built, & Union Operated Project; a bastion of good Union Jobs in what has become a landscape riddled with Construction Sweatshops fueled by predatory Developers & Contractors whose business models capitalize upon, what they view, as easily exploitatble workers of color. This Cycle of Poverty can be broken if the proposed rezoning in this instance moves forward. We go further to remind those charged with making the crucial decisions on this venture that New York City, and Brooklyn in particular, is facing an unprecedented economic downturn. Our members and their families, again many who live in Brooklyn, are feeling the devastating effects. And while those who stand opposed may deem construction jobs as “*temporary*”, we counter with the fact that our careers traditionally have been based on what are perceived as a series of so-called temporary jobs. Many a Union Carpenter has been able to go on to have a successful career accompanied with dignity in retirement, all based on so-called temporary jobs.

We must therefore submit this **Testimonial Statement in Favor of the 960 Franklin Ave Rezoning.**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rubén Colón". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

**Rubén Colón: AS Representative
NYC & V District Council Of Carpenters**

CC: File

Enid Braun
116 Adelphi Street
Brooklyn, NY 11205
718-522-7552

7-25-21

RE: 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning Proposal

To the City Planning Commission:

I ask you to **reject** the proposed Zoning Map Amendment and related actions at 960 Franklin Avenue **with no modifications**. Knocking off a floor or two or shifting bulk and tower placement as has become (sadly) usual with such applications will neither suffice nor fool anyone. Frankly, the fact that you have allowed this proposal to proceed to this point is shameful.

My opposition is primarily because of the effect on the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG). The 1991 zoning for the area was designated **specifically** after shadow studies indicated harmful impacts from taller structures on the Garden's historic collections. Mysteriously, the Department of City Planning has failed to produce these original studies in response to Discovery in a lawsuit regarding a rezoning proposal for nearby developments at 40 Crown and 931 Carroll Streets.

I live in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, but BBG is a public space that belongs to all residents of Brooklyn, the entire City, and, arguably, all visitors and lovers of public gardens throughout the world. As an art instructor at BBG since 2006, I know my adult students travel from Upper and Lower Manhattan, the far reaches of Brooklyn, Staten Island and Queens for the education programs offered at BBG. Plants from the greenhouses become still-life subjects for art classes as well as for public school education programs for children. I teach plein air landscape painting classes in the gardens themselves when weather permits. Without question, it is a love of nature as well as visual art that attracts attendees: the Garden functions as a Commons for an extended community, bringing together people of varied ethnicities and ages who would never otherwise meet. If this fraught era has taught us anything, it is that opportunities to bring together divided communities are more and more crucial to civic life.

BBG itself has taken the political risk of opposing this particular ULURP, while Mayor de Blasio equivocates, citing competing public interests, i.e. the need for housing vs. open green space. Brooklyn Community Board 9 voted to reject it in response to massive public outcry, understanding its role to safeguard a unique jewel within its boundaries.

I'll leave it to others to argue the failure of this project to create sufficiently affordable permanent housing for New Yorkers, who will in turn, certainly be

dismissed as NIMBY by the usual Open New York types. The fact is that the developers bought the site understanding the enhanced value of its proximity to BBG, and knowing the existing zoning context--designed to protect BBG as a unique public asset--and should be bound by those limits.

It is your responsibility now to preserve an irreplaceable, one-of-a-kind open space resource that provides both environmental and cultural benefits for the physical and mental health of residents. Doing otherwise makes a mockery of the notion of Planning and brands the Commission as a mere handmaiden to real estate interests.

ROWAN BLAIK, VP OF HORTICULTURE AT BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

Good morning. My name is Rowan Blaik, Vice President of Horticulture at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. I've managed BBG's living collections since 2017. Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

Plants need sunlight to thrive and survive. For that reason, I oppose the proposed rezoning.

For a 52 acre garden, BBG's plant collections have a global footprint. They represent every major group in the plant kingdom, every continent except Antarctica, and every major habitat on earth. From the rarest endangered species, to plants every New Yorker could grow on a windowsill. BBG, through its garden, collections, and programs, is an exemplar urban botanic garden.

A reminder of what is at risk here, a fifth of our long-term plant collections (7000 taxa and more than 18,000 plants) are housed in our conservatories, and the rest of the garden, plus local schools and community gardens, rely on our propagation facilities. It's taken 111 years of continuous care, community support, and investment of public funds, to build up this collection. These plants have been acquired from thousands of sources, reciprocally from an international network of botanic gardens, plant conservation work in the wild, and many private donors.

Analysis has shown that around four hours of direct sunlight would be lost from these intensive growing spaces. The damage to plant health, our facilities, and the diversity of our current collections would be year-round and irreversible. It would also hamper our ability to acquire and share plant material in the future, and jeopardize our ability and accreditation to work with state and federal agencies on vital plant conservation projects.

The audacity of this proposal is astounding. First, the developers said that only plants on the lots at 960 Franklin would be affected, even though it's 150 feet due east of the garden's most sunlight sensitive facilities and plants. Then they said, "no significant adverse shadow impacts" were to be expected. Then, begrudgingly, that irreversible "significant adverse impacts" would occur.

A garden is possibly the ultimate "sunlight sensitive resource", with no viable alternative to natural sunlight. By every measure, including the developer's own consultants and assessments, the proposed development would be terrible for the garden and its collections.

What the developers ask you to do here is to vote for an act of cultural and scientific vandalism. Please oppose any rezoning of 960 Franklin Avenue.

Thank you.

Testimony of Adam Ganser

Executive Director, New Yorkers for Parks

City Planning Commission Hearing on 960 Franklin Ave. Proposed Rezoning

I am Adam Ganser, Executive Director of New Yorkers for Parks (NY4P), NYC's only citywide parks advocacy organization. I am former Vice President for Planning and Design for Friends of the High Line, and I worked as an architect in private practice. I have master's degrees in Architecture and Real Estate Development. I oppose the proposed rezoning of 960 Franklin Ave.

While NY4P is a strong advocate for both public space AND affordable housing, we are concerned about the environmental impacts of the proposed upzoning on Brooklyn Botanic. In addition to creating shadows that, according to the EIS and confirmed by expert environmental modelers, would last up to 4.5 hours in sections of the garden, the shadows would also have a deleterious environmental impact on public places to the east, including Jackie Robinson Playground, the campus and public spaces of Medgar Evers College, and PS/MS 375, the Jackie Robinson School, and its small but important green spaces. The shadows would also stretch well into Prospect Park—past the Prospect Park Zoo and into the Nethermead. In my role as the lead advocate for parks in NYC, and my experience building one of the most innovative parks in the world, I understand how vital sunlight is for the health of plants and people.

The towers could also create a harmful reflective, heat-generating glare on the garden and the park, while creating an enormous visual blight visible from throughout the garden.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, which is mapped NYC parkland and one of only two landscapes in NYC designed by the Olmsted Brothers firm (the other is Fort Tryon Park in Washington Heights), is a world-renowned leader in informal science education, with its pioneering Children's Garden founded more than 100 years ago and more than 200,000 school and child visitors (out of 800,000 visitors) annually.

The proposed development, just 150 feet east of the Steinhardt Conservatory complex, would block sunlight to the garden's 23 greenhouses, preventing them from growing plants representative of globally diverse ecosystems (the developers' own EIS suggested that BBG might have to close its Desert Pavilion, e.g.), and from providing hands-on, year-round, free classes to the schoolchildren of Brooklyn.

As such, the development would have a harmful impact on many of the 12,000 taxa of plants grown and cared for in Brooklyn's living museum, and would thus profoundly endanger the garden's ability to carry out its mission of preserving and propagating rare plants and educating the next generation of environmental stewards.

In 1991, the City Planning Commission wisely and carefully implemented zoning limitations in the adjacent Crown Heights neighborhood to protect this resource the City of New York had stewarded, hand-in-glove with leaders of the garden, for more than a century. The City should be proud of its legacy of encouraging reasonable growth that also prioritizes natural, green spaces around New York. Now, 30 years later, the City Planning Commission must reaffirm the strategic wisdom of its 1991 zoning and reject this wildly out-of-scale, destructive proposal to preserve the garden, Prospect Park, local community playgrounds, and the environmental and physical health of the entire neighborhood.



CBID c/o 476 10th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215
Website: www.cbidems.org

Testimony by Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats submitted to
City Planning Commission Hearing re 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning Proposal
July 29, 2021

The members of Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats (CBID) strongly urge the City Planning Commission to reject any development proposal that would harm the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Members of CBID voted to support the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's "Fight for Sunlight" campaign and we are submitting this testimony to urge the City Planning Board to preserve the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG), one of Brooklyn's most valuable assets.

In terms of the proposed 960 Franklin Avenue rezoning proposal, we believe that the studies conducted by BBG's experts demonstrate that the best choice for the community is clear -- to keep the current limited height zoning laws in place.

If the developers are truly interested in creating housing for all price points, there are many available locations where they can do this. But there is only one Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden provides education for children of all ages and from all neighborhoods. It is a major haven for the pollinators that our food supply depends on but are declining all over the world. It is a research institute for sustainable practices. It preserves endangered plant species, and it provides valuable green space to all Brooklyn residents.

Moreover, Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a major tourist attraction, bringing thousands of visitors and millions of dollars into Brooklyn every year. Over the years, Brooklyn taxpayers have invested in many capital projects to improve the BBG and sustain its operation. Don't let the value of those investments be diminished by the proposed development.

The zoning laws around the Garden were designed explicitly to protect this valuable Brooklyn asset. If 960 Franklin Avenue were given a variance it could set a precedent for more tall and massive buildings to be built in the area surrounding BBG. This would endanger valuable portions of the Garden and ultimately could create a situation where the entire garden could be in shadow.

To allow the proposed 960 Franklin Avenue buildings to be built -- just 150 feet from the Garden's most important sites -- would be an act of vandalism on a valuable cultural and scientific icon and would be a crime against the families and children of Brooklyn. The greenhouses, conservatories, and nurseries that the Garden depends on would be compromised, threatening the conservation, research, and educational efforts that benefit all of Brooklyn.

We hope the City Planning Commission will join the members of CBID and thousands of other Brooklynites in supporting the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's "Fight for Sunlight" campaign to prevent critical areas of the Garden from being overshadowed by the proposed development at 960 Franklin Avenue. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is one of the jewels in the crown of NYC and a national treasure that must be preserved.

Testimony respectfully submitted,

Mary Beth Crosby Carroll

Executive Board Member of CBID and Member of CBID's Climate Change and Environmental Justice Committee

Testimony of Susan Donoghue, President, Prospect Park Alliance
City Planning Commission Hearing on 960 Franklin Avenue Proposed Rezoning
July 29, 2021

I am Sue Donoghue, President of the Prospect Park Alliance, the non-profit organization that sustains Prospect Park in partnership with the City.

As a parks conservancy and cultural partner to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, we are concerned about the environmental impact of the proposed upzoning of 960 Franklin Avenue on Brooklyn Botanic Garden and surrounding green spaces—including Prospect Park. The development will create shadows that according to the EIS would last up to 4.5 hours in sections of the Garden, and also would have a negative environmental impact on public places to the east, including Jackie Robinson Playground, the campus and public spaces of Medgar Evers College, and PS/MS 375, the Jackie Robinson School, and its small but important green spaces. The shadows would also stretch well into Prospect Park, one of the jewels of Brooklyn, home to the borough's last remaining forest and only lake, and an important historic landmark. As park stewards, we understand how vital sunlight is for the health of plants and people.

The towers could also create a harmful reflective, heat-generating glare on the Garden and the Park, while also creating an enormous visual blight visible from throughout the Garden, from all of Prospect Park, and from most of Brooklyn. Due to the low-scale development surrounding the park, it is truly an escape from the surrounding city, and when exploring the Ravine or relaxing on the Nethermead, our community feels surrounded by nature, which would be significantly impacted by this development.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, one of only two landscapes in New York City designed by the Olmsted Brothers firm, is a world-renowned leader in informal science education, with its pioneering Children's Garden founded more than 100 years ago and more than 200,000 school and child visitors (out of 800,000 visitors) annually.

The proposed development, just 150 feet east of the Steinhardt Conservatory complex, would block sunlight to Garden's 23 greenhouses, preventing them from growing plants representative of globally diverse ecosystems (the developers' own EIS suggested that BBG might have to close its Desert Pavilion, for example), and from providing hands-on, year-round, free classes to the schoolchildren of Brooklyn.

As such, the development would have a harmful impact on many of the 12,000 taxa of plants grown and cared for in Brooklyn's living museum, and would thus profoundly endanger the Garden's ability to carry out its mission of preserving and propagating rare plants and educating the next generation of environmental stewards.

In 1991, the City Planning Commission wisely and carefully implemented zoning limitations in the adjacent Crown Heights neighborhood to protect this resource the City of New York had stewarded, hand-in-glove with leaders of the Garden, for more than a century. The City should be proud of its legacy of encouraging reasonable growth that also prioritizes natural, green spaces around New York. Now, 30 years later, the City Planning Commission must reaffirm the strategic wisdom of its 1991 zoning and reject this out-of-scale proposal to preserve the Garden, Prospect Park and the surrounding neighborhoods.

New York City Planning Commission

Hearing on 960 Franklin Avenue Proposed Rezoning

Testimony of Carter Strickland

July 29, 2021

My name is Carter Strickland, and I submit this testimony as the New York State Director of the Trust for Public Land (TPL), as former Commissioner of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, as an environmental lawyer, and as a longtime resident of Brooklyn.

New York City's parks, open spaces, greenery, and public realm make our city great – and livable. The many quantifiable benefits of green spaces are why I helped create the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan to use planted areas and trees to help the city manage stormwater. In my role with TPL, I have overseen the conversion of NYC schoolyards into green community playgrounds, and have seen how these spaces revitalize neighborhoods and increase park access and equity throughout Brooklyn and other underserved areas of New York City.

I oppose the proposed rezoning of 960 Franklin Avenue for the purposes of creating 39-story residential towers because it will undermine our collective legacy in these green spaces. I am deeply concerned about the environmental impacts of the proposed spot upzoning on Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the adjacent parks and neighborhood. In addition to creating shadows that, according to the EIS and confirmed by expert environmental modelers, would last up to 4.5 hours in sections of the garden, the shadows would also have a deleterious environmental impact on public places to the east, including Jackie Robinson Playground, the campus and public spaces of Medgar Evers College, and PS/MS 375, the Jackie Robinson School, and its small but important green spaces. Our work to improve more than 200 schoolyards had shown us how vital sunlight is to plant and to children. The shadows would also stretch well into Prospect Park—past the Prospect Park Zoo and into the Nethermead.

The towers could also create a harmful reflective, heat-generating glare on the garden and the Park (that impact cannot yet be measured, as the developers have released no details of what the skin of the proposed towers would be made of), while also creating an enormous visual blight visible from throughout the Garden, from all of Prospect Park, and from most of Brooklyn.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, one of only two landscapes in NYC designed by the Olmsted Brothers firm, is a world-renowned leader in informal science education, with its pioneering Children's Garden founded more than 100 years ago and more than 200,000 school and child visitors (out of 800,000 visitors) annually.

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As such, the development would have a harmful impact on many of the 12,000 taxa of plants grown and cared for in Brooklyn's living museum, and would thus profoundly endanger the Garden's ability to carry out its mission of preserving and propagating rare plants and educating the next generation of environmental stewards.

In 1991, the City Planning Commission wisely and carefully implemented zoning limitations in the adjacent Crown Heights neighborhood to protect this resource the City of New York had stewarded, hand-in-glove with leaders of the garden, for more than a century. The City should be proud of its legacy of encouraging reasonable growth that also prioritizes natural, green spaces around New York. Now, 30 years later, the City Planning Commission must reaffirm the strategic wisdom of its 1991 zoning and reject this wildly out-of-scale, destructive proposal.

August 8, 2021

Dear City Planning Committee,

I am a member of the Brooklyn Botanical Garden writing to campaign on behalf of the campaign for Fight for Sunlight. I hope I am one of many testimonies flooding your inboxes in support of this important cause.

I would like to express how distressed I am to learn that high rises are being considered for this area, especially when they would damage the safe haven of the BBG in an irreversible way. To speak personally, the BBG became a safe haven for me when I moved to NYC over ten years ago; it became an even more desired location for me during the pandemic, as a safe outdoor place where you could quietly reflect and meditate (separate from the sometimes congested scene of Prospect Park.)

The truth is, there is housing available in Brooklyn that would not interfere with the safety and serenity of public spaces like the BBG, a space that provides so much good and peace to the people actually living in these neighborhoods. We are at a turning point in our planet's history and to see more local environment's being threatened by greed and consumerism is a microcosm of the larger domination that is happening with our planet. We need more green spaces to cater to the people that live especially in urban areas, not less. Look online and you'll find countless studies about how nature and greenery literally calms the nervous system and increases an immune system response. Grounding in green spaces helps people lower their heart rate and find inner peace. As someone with depression and anxiety who's mental state has become even more tenuous over the past year, I rely on green spaces like the BBG to find grounding.

To eliminate such spaces due to poor and mismanaged urban planning would be detrimental to the mental health of all city residents and the heart of this neighborhood. It reinforces an idea about government city planning and city devilment: people care more about the big dollar than they actually care about the people who they are selling too and the planet they are living on.

The BBG is more than a garden too, it's a community space and a historical landmark; a living breathing museum that has had overseen the development of Brooklyn for over 100 years. I don't think we want to live in time where these spaces are becoming more and more limited, but rather, a time where we all learn to pay attention to the needs of planet and then needs of the people who live on it. We are at a turning point. Everything that can be done to preserve our planet's green spaces and canopies of trees will be better of for all of us in the long run.

You have a chance here to move in the right direction; please take that chance.

Very sincerely yours, a concerned citizen,

Rebecca Schlossberg

Julia Charles
336 East 25th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11226

August 3, 2021

City Planning Commission
120 Broadway 31st Fl
New York, NY 10271

Dear City Planning Commission,

The Brooklyn Botanic Gardens is not just a horticultural treasure in the middle of central Brooklyn. It is also an institution intended to serve as a place for education, adoration, and reprieve from the hustle and bustle of our amazing city. I fully support the botanic gardens and the community leaders that oppose the erroneous, out-of-scale development in this community. The Brooklyn Botanic Gardens has fully supported the East 25th Street Historic District Initiative which utilized landmark designation to preserve both the architecture and culture of the block. Additionally, the botanic has supported community gardening all through-out Brooklyn and positively affected surrounding areas. The 300 East 25th Street Block Association has a long-standing relationship with BBG with their community gardening initiatives. Particularly, the annual Greenest Block In Brooklyn competition. In-kind, we stand in solidarity with the activists fighting to preserve the gardens and the stewards of the surrounding communities.

I write to the City Planning Commission today for your agency to vote down the re-zoning and development of the proposed 960 Franklyn Ave. There is something to be said that this development wishes to go against the current and appropriate zoning laws that were written to protect the gardens. Furthermore, as our city continues to recover, and trust of our city, state and federal agencies are in question, officials should also consider the impact of allowing such development so greatly opposed would result in. Grossly inappropriate development in the guise of “affordable” housing is an issue throughout this city. The proposed 960 Franklyn Ave needs to be voted down to protect the gardens, the surrounding communities and the integrity of the governing agencies.

Sincerely,

Julia Charles

Julia Charles

Founder, East 25th Street Historic District Initiative

CC: Adrian Benepe, President Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Maureen O’Brien, Community Field Manager
Nina Browne, Community Program Manager



August 9, 2021

Marisa Lago, Chair
City Planning Commission
Equitable Life Building, 31st Floor
120 Broadway
New York, NY 10271

Dear Chair Lago and City Planning Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to share additional commentary on the impacts that the proposed 960 Franklin Avenue development would have on cherished community spaces in Crown Heights, specifically Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG), Jackie Robinson Playground, and Medgar Evers College. To be clear: this project would have disastrous effects on some of Crown Heights' most heavily frequented open public places, a neighborhood already identified by the City as underserved by open space. Even the Developer's own DEIS and the Arborist Report make this evident.

Our analysis is limited to the *original proposal* by the Developer, rather than the new, illusory project advanced at the July 29th hearing. We will refrain from judgement as to the theatrics and tactics employed in their gambit to subvert the City's review process.

Third party research by MAS and BBG evaluates additional metrics

Independent researchers were hired by The Municipal Art Society and Brooklyn Botanic Garden to address the shortfalls of the current DEIS, which, as you know, looks at the duration of only *new shadows* on sunlight-sensitive resources, per CEQR Technical Manual requirements. This new body of research provides a more comprehensive understanding of the impacts by studying access to sunlight, thermal comfort, and impacts on specific plant species, as well as thermally beneficial sunlight which tells us about the impacts of shadows on human use of open spaces.

Five measures reveal a more dramatic set of impacts than previously understood.

- Daily light integral: The proposed development would cost BBG greenhouses more than 10 days of daylight in each collection and 30 days in the Tropical and Aquatic collections. Lost days are concentrated during the growing seasons in the shoulder months. Overall summer light levels are also significantly reduced.
- Shadow increases: The proposed development will increase shadows across BBG collections, from 1 to 2 hours in March to up to 3.5 hours in June. The Tropical, Aquatic, and Desert plant collections, which are highly sensitive to reductions in sunlight, will be the most affected because of their proximity to the proposed buildings, just 150 feet to the east.
- Winter daylight access: Streets and sidewalks surrounding the project site will lose 100% of the current sunlight levels during winter months when sunlight is most precious. Surrounding streets and public spaces beyond this immediate impact zone would lose up to 1.5 hours of sun per day during the winter.
- Street tree survival: Trees along Franklin Avenue, McKeever Place, and in Jackie Robinson Playground would lose 6 or more hours a day of direct sunlight, representing a loss of 9 weeks of their growing season. Trees along Montgomery Street and in the Medgar Evers College campus would also lose several weeks of adequate sunlight during the growing season.
- Thermal comfort: Medgar Evers College and Jackie Robinson Playground will experience the greatest impact on thermal comfort, a combination of outdoor conditions that contribute to human comfort outdoors. In February when the need for sunlight is especially acute, losses would be greater than 2.5 hours in these areas and along BBG's pathways.

Vulnerable Plant Collections

The collections most vulnerable to loss of sunlight are displayed in the Garden's Conservatory complex. These collections and examples of rare or endangered plants they hold are highlighted below:

- Orchid collection The orchid collection holds thousands of tropical and subtropical orchids from around the world, including 100 *Vanda* orchids, well known as some of the most sunlight-dependent orchid species. The *Vanda* genus occurs in tropical Asia, close to the equator, where it has evolved to grow high in sun-drenched tree canopies with consistent day-length throughout the year. BBG's specialist growers predict that these orchids, which include rare and protected specimens, would be the first to suffer, stop flowering, and die out.
- Impact on the Desert collection. Cacti, succulents, and wildflowers native to arid regions of the world are represented in the Desert collection, with plants that evolved to grow

in full sunlight. The collection includes a number of at risk, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List–protected species such as the *Alluaudia*, endemic to arid forests of Madagascar and well known as a food source and habitat for ring-tailed lemurs. Damage to BBG’s collection harms its responsibility to carry on *ex-situ* plant conservation.

- Impact on the Tropical collection Featuring plants from tropical regions of the Amazon basin, African rainforest, and tropical eastern Asia, this collection requires high light levels to penetrate the 65-foot-tall rainforest canopy. Rare and endangered species at risk for loss of sunlight here include many rare cycads such as the endangered *Dioon spinulosum*, from Mexico, protected on the IUCN Red List.
- Impact on the Lily Pool Terrace Constructed in 1919, Lily Pool Terrace is a unique, formal landscape showcasing hardy waterlilies and sacred lotus, and flanked on its long sides by the Annual and Perennial Borders. The annual borders are replanted for seasonal interest through the year, with bulb displays in the winter and spectacular summer displays tied into BBG’s educational and programmatic themes. The terraces are elevated above the surrounding ground level, catching sunlight year-round and over a long period of the day. The perennial plantings within the pools are reliant on winter sunlight to prevent excessive periods of ice formation. The seasonal plantings on the Annual Borders have a short window for growth, and the west-facing aspect on the terrace allows for morning and midday sun to reach down to the plants and their beds. Benches surround the pools on the terrace are well used at all hours of the day and all seasons—especially as the terrace offers year-round interest, access, and proximity to amenities. If 960 Franklin were allowed to move forward, Lily Pool Terrace and the surrounding plantings would lose around 1.5 hours thermally beneficial sunlight in winter mornings. Compared to an as-of-right development that followed the existing zoning regulations, the proposed project would reduce morning daylight by 1 to 2 hours from August to May.

Public space impacts

- Jackie Robinson Playground. Inspired by former Crown Heights fixture Ebbets Field, Jackie Robinson Playground offers recreational space to children and adults. Due to the relatively low urban density around the 960 Franklin Avenue site, there is sunlight year-round. Access to daylight is particularly important during the colder months of the year, when the presence or lack of sunlight can be the difference between physical comfort and discomfort for recreation.

If 960 Franklin were advanced as proposed, Jackie Robinson Playground would receive just 2.6 hours of thermally beneficial sunlight in winter, far less than the ideal threshold of 4 hours. Compared to an as-of-right development that followed the existing zoning regulations, the proposed project would reduce winter daylight by nearly 2 additional hours.

The greatest impacts would be on the basketball and handball courts and the fitness equipment in the southern end of the playground, parts of which would receive less than 2 hours of daylight on cold winter days. The play structures and seating areas at the northern end of the playground would also experience up to an hour less of thermally beneficial sunlight compared to the as-of-right condition.

- We have learned through contacts at Medgar Evers College that they believe their new Bedford Avenue Building Beautification project, whose outdoor campus includes lawns, trees, and gardens, would be harmed by shadow from the development. Shadow impacts there would be experienced every afternoon with the longest shadows extending in winter.

In short, this project's impact on available sunlight would drastically reduce the usability of these recreation spaces for Crown Heights families during the months of the year when sunlight is most essential.

This project is wrong for our community and our garden. We urge the Commission to reject it.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Goldstein
President
Municipal Art Society

Adrian Benepe
President
Brooklyn Botanic Garden

AREA OF STUDY AROUND 960 FRANKLIN
SHADOWS ON MARCH 21ST



The study focused around the 960 Franklin as well as adjacent streets.

The extent of the study was established based on the shadow cast by the building on March 21st.

Within that range, the analysis and metrics were focused on 4 separate areas:

1. Brooklyn Botanic Garden (INDOORS & OUTDOORS)
2. Jackie Robinson Playground
3. Medgar Evers College
4. Immediate street level

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Paul Borchard

July 30, 2021

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Calendar Information Office – 31st Floor
120 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10271

Subject: 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

Hello,

I have lived in New York City for twenty years and have never taken the time to make comment to the City Planning Commission. My general logic has been that it's a giant City with tons of buildings and "progress" will inevitably swallow up most of the quiet and charming aspects of it. That being said, I felt the proposed development at 960 Franklin Street warranted a comment. While my profession is finance and operations management, I have degrees both in accounting and horticulture (with a stronger passion for the latter). The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a jewel, that in "horticulture" circles, is a preeminent institution far exceeding in recognition to the New York Botanical Garden. It would be a shame to cast shadows (and invariably drastically negatively impact the flora of the site) in the name of development profits. As such, I implore the City Planning Commission to vote against the immense 960 Franklin Avenue project.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Borchard". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Preserve Our Brooklyn Neighborhoods

NYC Department of City Planning
120 Broadway
NYC, NY 10271

July 25th, 2021

In Opposition to 960 Franklin Avenue Rezoning

To Chair Lago and Commissioners:

Preserve Our Brooklyn Neighborhoods ("POBN"), as advocates for historic preservation of streetscapes, buildings and Parks in Brooklyn, supports its neighbors and neighborhood organizations involved in the same concerns throughout Brooklyn and throughout wider New York City.

After carefully looking into the rationale of the purported 'benefits' of the 960 Franklin Avenue rezoning, we are in unanimous agreement that this rezoning must not proceed-no 'modifications'-no clever parsing of guidelines! The BBG's documentation and review have clearly cited that the shadow impacts of 960 Franklin will harm the treasured and unique Brooklyn Botanic Garden; its plantings will be decimated; and the public green space that belongs to all New Yorkers will be defaced.

Invading and anomalous towers, which will be the result if the ULURP is ratified, are hyped as justified on the basis of so-called 'affordable housing'. As long as the reliance on de facto bait and switch Federal criteria AMI 'tiers', which have incurred so much neighborhood hostage taking and displacement (substantive data now shows), the raison d'être of handing over livable and human-scale blocks for predatory greed, is as phony as a wooden nickel. To add insult to injury, this attempted encroachment brazenly defies the prior regulated constraints for new outsized buildings in this district -for the same reason- that shadows will reach Prospect Park and the BBG. It was unacceptable then and it is unacceptable now. One hopes to be forgiven to have to ask: was that ruling even worth the paper it was written on? The sun is still in the sky and plants still need sunlight to flourish!

The BBG has served to invite the world –tourists and the curious to come visit Brooklyn. The BBG has served to be a green respite from the harsh impacts of the pandemic and for decades, as an oasis from the cement towers and the hustle/bustle of the city streets. The BBG is a neighborhood economic equalizer –this precious place is where all incomes, races, ethnicities meet to relish Nature's gifts...even as we're negatively impacted by the harm Man has done to our planet. Shall we do more here?

The alleged moral imperative of 'affordable housing' is, like so many predatory rezoned projects, which the DCP has discouragingly 'blessed' –nothing less than bait and switch. But, anyone not under a rock (nor those who obviously have financial skin in the game such as Continuum and Mr. Eichner) will say, this up-zoning attempt is a farce. This is NOT about affordable housing...! It can never be accepted as a 'public good' while destroying the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

The question is -how much of this will be your legacy if you vote to hand over the sky and the sunlight and ignore the thousands of community protesting members and the hundreds of thousands of Brooklyn Botanic Garden visitors each year?

Preserve Our Brooklyn Neighborhoods, and our members therefore urge the Commission to reject this proposed rezoning.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Sandy Reiburn –President

Preserve Our Brooklyn Neighborhoods
100 South Elliott Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217

Good morning NYC Planning commission Chair Marisa Lago,
vice-chair Kenneth J. Knuckles, Esq., and members of the NYC planning commission.
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is Maureen O'Brien; I'm the community field manager at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. I work with the people of Brooklyn in community gardens, block associations, urban farms and tree beds. I'm a long-time Brooklyn resident and homeowner.

Like Mayor Bill DeBlasio, I strongly oppose the 960 Franklin Avenue development. This project would negatively affect the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and surrounding neighborhood with disorderly growth and inappropriate development. This project must be denied with no modifications.

- BBG is "the people's garden" a treasured, necessary resource that belongs to the people of Brooklyn, NYC and beyond. The existing zoning protects and preserves sunlight as many horticultural experts and people from the community have already attested. This development would also greatly damage the community greening plant propagation and nursery area at BBG. We grow and donate thousands of units of plant material every year to community gardeners, urban farmers, mutual aid growers and block associations all over Brooklyn including neighborhoods like Canarsie, Bedford Stuyvesant, Bushwick, Brownsville, and East New York.

BBG is part of the heart and soul of the people of Brooklyn. When I'm working in-the-field outside the garden gates, this is what I hear.

"I visited on a class trip, it was amazing! We took plants and pond water back to look at under microscopes. We learned where food comes from, that nature connects all of us, how plants can heal, and that trees make air."

"We went to BBG and got engaged, married, went on a first date, took graduation photos, brought children as infants, and had family outings, wheeled grandma in the Cranford Rose Garden."

"At BBG we held a memorial for mom, prayed, mourned the loss of a friend, sought solace during 9/11, visited to stay sane during the pandemic."

These milestone memories from the heart & soul did not happen in shadow or darkness. The importance of sunlight for a thriving Botanic Garden cannot be underestimated and must not be diminished.

As an employee of NYC and a horticultural and community manager I offer my expert advice that this proposed project must be stopped immediately with no modifications.

Members of the NYC planning commission, I ask you oppose this development.
Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen O'Brien
July 27th, 2021
mobrien@bbg.org

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, July 9, 2021

120 BROADWAY, LOWER CONCOURSE & ZOOM

960 FRANKLIN AVENUE REZONING

1 MARISA LAGO (CHAIR): Are we ready to begin?
2 Great. Well, good morning and welcome to the city
3 planning Commission combination in person and remote
4 public meeting. RYAN singer who is our senior director
5 of land use and Commission operations is now going to
6 outline general information about this in person and
7 remote public hearing and how to participate.

8 RYAN SINGER: Good morning. Verbal testimony may
9 be provided in person online or by calling in on your
10 telephone. If you wish to speak in person at 120
11 Broadway, you may register through the NYC engage
12 portal, or at the front door. Masks are required and
13 sitting room capacity is limited by social distancing
14 guidelines. Furthermore we are near to capacity and
15 there may be a protocol where we ask people to
16 register and then take a lap or have a coffee in
17 Zuccotti park and come back in 30 minutes, we do have
18 a number of speakers that allows us to do that.

19 If you wish to access the hearing online, please
20 register through the upcoming meetings page of the NYC
21 engage portal. A link to join the hearing is on the
22 landing page after you register. Please do not close
23 the landing page without first clicking on the link.

1 If you're accessing the hearing via phone and
2 wish to speak, you must first register with the dial-
3 in participant hotline at the numbers listed on the
4 screen. If one of the numbers is busy please try
5 another. The meeting ID is 618-237-7396. Press pound
6 to skip the participation ID. The password is the
7 numeral one. The phone number is also posted on the
8 upcoming meetings page of the NYC engage portal,
9 please note that no matter how you are accessing the
10 meeting, you must register if you wish to speak.

11 Those accessing the meeting online will have the
12 option to turn on their camera while giving testimony.
13 When it is your turn to speak, you will be notified
14 and promoted to a panelist. This will allow you to
15 unmute your microphone and grant you the ability to
16 turn on your camera.

17 Please listen closely for your name to be called.
18 There will be a short period where it will appear that
19 you're no longer in the meeting. Do not be alarmed,
20 you should rejoin the meeting as a panelist. If you're
21 accessing the hearing via phone your name will be
22 called from the list of registered speakers. Once your
23 name has been called you'll be given a temporary

1 ability to unmute yourself, you do this by pressing
2 star six to unmute your phone.

3 For those accessing the hearing via phone who
4 have not yet registered to speak but wish to do so,
5 you must first registered to speak, through the dial
6 and participant hotline that I described a moment ago.

7 It's not possible to testify via telephone
8 without first having registered. Speakers are limited
9 to three minutes of testimony. There are a few
10 exceptions to the three minute time limit elected
11 officials are accorded the courtesy of jumping to the
12 front of the queue and are not limited to three
13 minutes. If consecutive translation services are being
14 used the time will be extended to five minutes, and if
15 an applicant team with three or more speakers wishes
16 To make a presentation, the team will be generally
17 allowed a total of 10 minutes, the Chair will announce
18 in the time limit is reached.

19 Please be mindful of potential background noise
20 during your testimony. Please make sure that if you're
21 watching the preceding via live stream that the live
22 stream is muted when you begin your testimony,
23 otherwise you will hear an echo.

24

1 If you change the mode, by which you will be
2 testifying either by leaving the hearing room and
3 testifying online or via dial up or coming into the
4 hearing room in person, you need to re-register and
5 indicate the new method by which you will be
6 testifying.

7 If you wish to submit written testimony, it
8 should be submitted to the Department of City
9 Planning. Mailing and email address can be found on
10 our website, planning.nyc.gov.

11 Lastly, please note that this remote public
12 hearing and all testimony provided is being recorded.

13 CHAIR LAGO: Well, again good morning and welcome
14 to this combination in person and remote public
15 meeting I do want to note that, while the Commission
16 has been meeting in person, for a number of meetings,
17 this is far and away the largest number of in person
18 potential testifiers that we are able to welcome and I
19 want to thank you for observing social distancing
20 norms and masking, as public health is the number one
21 important thing.

22 Also, as Ryan Singer just indicated, we have
23 generally a three minute limit and I think that this

1 is important, the Commission sticks quite strictly to
2 the three minutes.

3 Particularly important on a day like today, where
4 we already have 85 speakers signed up, and so it is a
5 courtesy to others who also wish to be heard, and with
6 that Madam Secretary, if you could begin the meeting.

7 SINGER: I believe Madam Secretary is out today,
8 so I will begin. The next part of the calendar is the
9 public hearing section on page one. Borough of
10 Brooklyn calendar numbers one through four, CD9
11 calendar number C200184ZRK, calendar number
12 2N200185ZRK, calendar number three C20186ZIK -

13 CHAIR LAGO: Ryan, I'm afraid that you have to
14 take the role of - we're missing our Madam Secretary.

15 SINGER: That's right let's - I'll now call the
16 roll. Let's make sure we have a quorum, thank you.

17 SINGER: Chair CHAIR LAGO?

18 CHAIR LAGO: Here.

19 SINGER : Vice Chairman Knuckles?

20 VICE CHAIR KNUCKLES: Here

21 SINGER: Commissioner Burney? Absent? Commissioner
22 Cappelli?

23 CAPELLI: Here.

24

1

2 SINGER: Commissioner Cerullo?

3 CERULLO: Here.

4 SINGER: Commissioner Doueck?

5 DOUECK: Here.

6 SINGER: Commissioner Knight is absent,

7 Commissioner Levin?

8 LEVIN: Here.

9 SINGER: Commissioner Ortiz?

10 ORTIZ: Here.

11 SINGER: and Commissioner Rampershad

12 RAMPERSHAD: Here.

13 SINGER: Quorum is present. And I will now start

14 the next part of the calendar, we said Borough of

15 Brooklyn calendar numbers one through four, CD nine,

16 calendar number 1 C200184 ZMK. Calendar number 2

17 N200185 ZRK. Calendar number 3 C200186 ZSK Calendar

18 number 4 C200187 ZSK.

19 Public hearing in the matter of applications for

20 zoning map zoning texts amendments and special permits

21 concerning 960 Franklin avenue rezoning.

22 A public hearing is being held by the City

23 Planning Commission in conjunction with the above

24 ULURP hearings to receive comments related to the

1 draft Environmental Impact Statement. This hearing is
2 being held pursuant to the State Environmental Quality
3 Review Act and the City Environmental Quality Review
4 Act.

5 CHAIR LAGO: Before I call the applicant team, I
6 would like to let the Commission know that General
7 practice is to use our Monday review session to have
8 the department inform the Commission about the state
9 of the public review to give the Commission updates on
10 the recommendation from the Community Board and the
11 borough President, so that the Commission is in a
12 position to be well informed before the public
13 hearing. We did that - the department staff did that
14 on Monday, after the close of our Monday review
15 session we received new DEIS analysis. Obviously,
16 having received that at that point, the department
17 staff is unable to take the type of review that
18 generally takes weeks if not months to analyze the new
19 environmental material and also the land use and the
20 urban design implications and so with apologies to the
21 Commission, the department staff will be seeing this
22 new information, along with the Commission, for the
23 first time.

24

1 (UNINTELLIGIBLE FROM AUDIENCE)

2 CHAIR LAGO: With that I call the applicant team.

3 There will be a 10 minute presentation from an
4 applicant team comprised of Christian Hylton, Ian
5 Bruce Eichner, William Wallace the fourth, David West
6 and Jeff Reuben.

7 (UNINTELLIGIBLE FROM AUDIENCE)

8 EICHNER: My name is Ian Bruce Eichner of
9 (unintelligible), I would like to -

10 CHAIR LAGO: Could you make sure that microphone
11 is on please? And if we could start the clock.

12 EICHNER: Is the microphone now?

13 CHAIR LAGO: Yes now it is, thank you.

14 EICHNER: Apologies. Good morning, Commissioners,
15 my name is Ian Bruce Eichner of Franklin Avenue
16 Acquisition and I'm here today to discuss the proposed
17 960 Franklin avenue rezoning and related actions.

18 Presenting with me today is Christian Hylton of
19 Philips Nizer who will discuss the legal and land use
20 aspects of the application, as well as David West and
21 Sean Dawson of Hill West architects who will discuss
22 the architectural aspects of the proposal.

23 Additionally, I, William Wallace IV of Franklin Avenue
24 Acquisitions, and both John McNally and Jeff Reuben of

1 Philip Habib will be available to answer your
2 questions related to the application.

3 960 Franklin avenue represents the first
4 significant union-built, union-financed, union-
5 operated, middle-class residential development in New
6 York city's history.

7 It is the largest pension fund investment in a
8 community of color in New York city's history.

9 It is the first 50/50 residential development on
10 private land in the entire Borough of Brooklyn in New
11 York's history.

12 Because of this, 960 Franklin has garnered the
13 unprecedented support of the AFL CIO Central Labor
14 Council, which represents more than 300 unions and 1.3
15 million working and middle class New York City
16 workers.

17 Additionally,

18 (UNINTELLIGIBLE FROM AUDIENCE)

19 EICHNER: Additionally, the AFL CIO has committed
20 more than \$500 million of their members retirement
21 income through the AFL CIO housing investment trust to
22 underwrite the construction costs of 960 Franklin.

23 In addition to the aforementioned support of the
24 AFL CIO central Labor Council, 960 Franklin has also

1 received active support from 32BJ, the New York State
2 New York City Building and Construction Trade Council
3 and 100 Blacks in Construction.

4 In order to achieve the level of affordability
5 with spectrums of income, reflecting the needs of New
6 York city's working and middle class residents, the
7 project requires the density that would allow us to
8 achieve that objective.

9 Our proposal would truly generate an
10 unprecedented supply of permanently affordable
11 housing, and as shown on a later slide, would generate
12 more affordable units in Community board nine, then
13 the housing program of New York has done in its
14 entirety, since 2014.

15 I now turn to Christian Hylton, and I look
16 forward to answer questions after our presentation,
17 thank you.

18 HYLTON: Good morning, Commissioners. Can we go to
19 slide two please?

20 My name is Christian Hylton with Phillips Nizer
21 LLP, Land Use counsel for the applicant. As presented
22 to the Commission on Monday, this application is
23 comprised the four distinct actions zoning map

1 amendment to rezone the area from R6A to R9D, and D9D
2 C2-4.

3 Zoning text amendment to designate the project
4 area as MIH area options 1 and 2

5 A special CPC special permit for bulk waivers
6 pursuant to a large scale development

7 And a CPC special permit to reduce the parking
8 requirements for the proposed development.

9 Since the DEIS, the applicant has revised the
10 proposal development to contain 34 stories, not 39
11 stories presented to commission on Monday. this was
12 done to mitigate some of the impacts shown in the
13 DEIS.

14 As Mr. Eichner mentioned this area of Crown
15 Heights is seeing a lot of new development. Can you go
16 to next - sorry, next slide.

17 According to DOB data pulled earlier this month
18 there are 27 open new building applications, 24
19 substantial alterations in various stages of
20 construction and 21 demolition applications within the
21 Community district.

22 The project area is uniquely situated to
23 accommodate increased residential density.

1 The site is well served by public transportation,
2 with the 2, 3, 4 and 5 subway lines, Franklin avenue
3 shuttle to the Q, A and C lines, and the B44 SBS bus
4 line all nearby.

5 The site is improved by a nonconforming
6 manufacturing use that that is terminating operations
7 and does not require the direct displacement of
8 longtime residents to make room for a new development.

9 The project area is also bounded by higher
10 density districts with R8A districts, to the west and
11 south, and R8X district, to the north, approved by the
12 Commission in 2018 Franklin avenue rezoning.

13 The proposed actions therefore represent the best
14 opportunity to generate new housing at the development
15 site.

16 That said, in so far as the Commission believes
17 the greater residential density is appropriate here,
18 but the proposed actions are inappropriate in the
19 aggregate.

20 The applicant will be presenting an alternative
21 lower density scenario with R8X and R8X/C2-4 zoning
22 districts for the commission's consideration.

23 We are mindful of the comments made by the chair
24 at Monday's executive session about committees

1 commission's ability to review alternate scenarios in
2 light of the building-specific review given as part of
3 the special permit applications.

4 However, the lower density alternative being
5 presented today - as will be expanded on in a
6 subsequent submission for the record - would not rely
7 on any special permit bulk waivers or parking
8 reductions. The alternative scenario is also within
9 the scope of the environmental review conducted by the
10 Department of City Planning. The Commission may
11 therefore consider the alternative as part of its
12 considerations of the application for zoning map
13 amendment, just as the Commission considers
14 alternative lower density scenarios in many rezoning
15 applications.

16 Finally, I would like to comment on one
17 particular point has been brought up repeatedly by the
18 opposition to the proposal including the Community
19 Board. The claim that the existing R6A zoning was
20 intentionally mapped to protect the botanic garden -
21 while the CPC report for the 1991 Washington Avenue
22 rezoning references consideration of potential high
23 impacts on the garden, a detailed review of the zoning
24 framework created by that rezoning shows that this

1 consideration was focused on buildings fronting on
2 Washington Avenue. We'll go to slide seven.

3 While the project area was map as an R6A zoning
4 district, the areas immediately to the west and north
5 closer to the garden and not blocked by other
6 buildings were mapped as R8A zoning districts, with
7 taller height limits and more impactful shadows than
8 the project area, which is further away and buffered
9 by intervening sites. We reiterate that the project
10 area is well situated for increased residential
11 density to increase the available affordable housing
12 stock in the area, and that the proposed actions
13 represent the best opportunity to make that a reality.

14 With that I'll turn it over to Hill West
15 Architects team to discuss the proposal development
16 and the alternative density options.

17 WEST: Thank you, Christian I'm David West with
18 Hill West Architects.

19 In the interest of time which we don't have much
20 of, I'd like to show you both of the proposals that
21 Christian just discussed. Could we go straight to
22 slide 12.

1 The project, the mitigation project is an R9D -
2 I'm sorry let's go to slide - well, we can stay on
3 this one.

4 The proposed mitigation project is an R9D, 34-
5 story building project it consists of two buildings
6 containing approximately 1,151,700 square feet.

7 In addition to 1578 dwelling units, contains
8 approximately 21,200 feet of retail fronting on
9 Franklin, 9700 feet of community facility, as well as
10 two parking garages located primarily below grade to
11 accommodate parking for 16% of the non-income
12 restricted units, which is 180 cars.

13 Of the 1578 dwelling units, 784, which is 50%,
14 are affordable for low and middle income families,
15 provided pursuant to the Mandatory Inclusionary
16 Housing program and Affordable New York.

17 If you go to slide 11 back one. Here you see the
18 massing diagram, this proposal fits within the maximum
19 envelope that was presented as part of the large scale
20 special permit that you can see in the dotted outline.
21 It's five stories shorter and reduces the shadow
22 impacts.

1 The buildings are separated by a courtyard space,
2 which would provide a meaningful public access area on
3 the site.

4 Waivers being sought, as part of the special
5 permit include a base height waiver for the North,
6 building, a waiver of tower coverage above 85 feet,
7 and a waiver of tower top coverage for the highest
8 four stories. We worked extensively with the
9 department's urban design team to find the best
10 designed to accommodate the bulk.

11 I think now we should turn to the lower density
12 alternative. I ask that you go to slide 14.

13 CHAIR LAGO: I'm afraid that your time is up, and
14 at this point we will turn to the Commission for
15 questioning, Commissioner Doueck.

16 DOUECK: Could you speak to the lower density
17 alternative that you have proposed? I understood it to
18 be an R8X but did you have any proposal for an R8A?

19 EICHNER: We have a proposal for an R8X. R8A we
20 have not analyzed. Can I speak to about the R8X?

21 DOUECK: That's the question.

22 EICHNER: Please go to slide 14. Slide 15.

1 So the lower density alternative project, while
2 requiring a zoning map amendment would otherwise be
3 fully as of right. Slide 16.

4 The R8X. Doesn't matter. The R8X zoning would
5 provide -

6 (Unintelligible from audience)

7 EICHNER: Because I'm going to make the points.
8 the R8X zoning would provide 7.2 FAR. This yields
9 approximately 855,000 square feet of zoning floor
10 area, 1170 dwelling units of which 351, which is 30%,
11 would be affordable under the MIH program, next slide
12 please.

13 MIH option two would provide a mix of units at
14 40, 60, and 130% of AMI.

15 Slide 18.

16 This shows the zoning mapping that would be
17 required for this project. We've mapped R8X across the
18 entire development site with C2-4 overlay along
19 Franklin Avenue. This zoning is consistent with the
20 zoning that the Commission approved on the block
21 directly to the north across Montgomery street.

22 Slide 19.

23 UNKNOWN: Commissioner, excuse me.

1 DOUECK: So what would be the height on the
2 proposed building under the R8X?

3 EICHNER: The height would be 170 feet, if you go
4 to slide 21 there's an image of -

5 DOUECK: Can I ask you, why have you chosen an
6 R8X, versus an R8A which would give you the same
7 density, and height would be substantially less?

8 EICHNER: We thought it was the most appropriate
9 zoning it's what's been mapped across Montgomery
10 street and it gives us a good building form,

11 DOUECK: But an R8A would - would give us the same
12 amount of affordable units pretty much the same
13 density and less height.

14 EICHNER: I'm not prepared to respond to that.
15 slide 21 which I -

16 CHAIR LAGO: (unintelligible) my questions, thank
17 you. I do need to correct a blatant misstatement
18 something that requires a rezoning is not as of right.

19 (APPLAUSE)

20 EICHNER: I've heard otherwise.

21 CHAIR LAGO: Again, something that requires a
22 rezoning is not as of right.

23 Other questions from the Commission?

1 Okay, then with that we will thank the applicant
2 team, and we will follow our standard process in which
3 we start with five speakers and opposition then turn
4 to speakers and support and go back and forth until
5 speakers have been heard.

6 Our next speaker will be Phara Forrest to be
7 followed by Elizabeth Peters, and again in the
8 interest of being able to accommodate everyone, I
9 would ask that people who are here in person, if you
10 are next on deck please make your way so you're ready
11 to be at the microphone.

12 SINGER: just noting that the assemblywoman,
13 Forest, is not subject to the time limit.

14 CHAIR LAGO: Oh yes, thank you for clarifying
15 that. Welcome assemblywoman.

16 Phara FORREST (TESTIFIER): Good morning. Thank
17 you so much, council Planning Committee for allowing
18 me to speak today on the 960 rezoning.

19 Again, my name is Phara Forrest, I am the sitting
20 assemblymember for assembly district 57 representing
21 parts of Prospect Heights, Clinton Hill, Crown
22 Heights, and bits of Bed Stuy.

23 I have been, and I want to be very frank, been at
24 the job for only six months. Seven months ago in July,

1 however, I have been part of the community for the
2 past 32 years. I have lived a block away from 960
3 Franklin avenue for 31 years, and now currently live
4 at Ebbets Field, one block away, for the past seven
5 months. My parents still live at 12 Crown street which
6 shares the same block as 960 Franklin avenue, and my
7 son was born two months ago, a block away from 960
8 Franklin avenue.

9 So in regards to the 960 Franklin avenue
10 rezoning, the Community has spoken again and again.
11 They have spoken, and they have been loud and clear.

12 The Council Board and the Community has rejected
13 the proposal back in 2019. There have been little to
14 no changes to the proposal, since then.

15 And if we recall back the Community had spoken
16 back in 1991 when the area was rezoned to prevent
17 luxury development such as this.
18 The exact discussion at the time was brought up:
19 should this working class community, the working class
20 community that I was raised in, this working class,
21 this working class of people of color. Should it be
22 reshaped by luxury towers? And no, it should not.

1 Residents have made their opinions clear through
2 the democracy, the process of democracy that was
3 afforded.

4 Personally, I have seen the behavior of landlords
5 has changed at the prospect of significant rezoning.
6 If I'm here today as the Assembly member, it is
7 because I was activated by the prospect of being
8 displaced in my building. My building, 12 Crown
9 street, when I - in 2016, was a, is a rent stabilized
10 unit and a rent stabilized building. But we have been
11 converted to condominiums, this is an anticipation of
12 prospective, or, the anticipation of rezoning, right?

13 What does that mean for us as residents in a rent
14 stabilized unit? That means that every time a building
15 unit goes empty, that means, now it is no longer
16 affordable housing stock, it is now a luxury
17 condominium.

18 If you look in the neighborhood, there has been
19 increased harassment, there has been increased
20 evictions and so many people have been displaced. So
21 many community pillars are no longer there.

22 All of the abuse of longtime residents stems from
23 the anticipated development of more luxury, luxurious
24 properties and luxurious units. Approving this

1 development, approving this rezoning would be the
2 premeditated murder of my community.

3 The premeditated murder of Crown Heights. The
4 Crown Heights that raised me to be a nurse, to be a
5 working-class woman, to be an assemblywoman today.

6 This is the same community, Crown Heights that I
7 had hoped that would raise my son, but if this
8 rezoning goes through, and the affordability for the
9 middle class people like me, we would be kicked out
10 and my son would not be able to enjoy Crown Heights
11 would not be able to join Medgar Evers that have
12 shaped my life, enjoy living across the street, of the
13 home of the Dodgers. That would be gone.

14 So I think it behooves us today to take this
15 rezoning quite seriously. The solution proposed today
16 is not the solution that the Community needs. What it
17 needs is to be preserved, it needs to be protected and
18 not given away to be annihilated by luxury
19 development. I am in opposition to the proposal.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you assemblymember. if you
22 wouldn't mind, first, congratulations on the birth of
23 your son

24 FORREST: Thank you.

1 You've had quite the busy seven months and so we
2 are pleased that you took the time during this time to
3 come, speak with us,

4 FORREST: Thank you.

5 CHAIR LAGO: are there any questions from the
6 Commission? Okay, you are off the hook. Thank you so
7 much again, our next speaker will be Elizabeth Peters
8 who will be followed by Diane Steinberg, and both will
9 be testifying remotely.

10 ELIZABETH PETERS (TESTIFIER): I'm Elizabeth
11 Peters. Thank you so much for this opportunity. I, I
12 really appreciate the Assemblywoman's comments. It's
13 too hard a statement to follow.

14 Anyhow, I have lived in Brooklyn for close to 23
15 years and worked at Brooklyn Botanic Garden for 15 of
16 those. I am not speaking so much as an employee of
17 Brooklyn Botanic Garden as a citizen who's been
18 watching this process and now knows more about ULURP,
19 probably than any civilian should.

20 There is no question that constructing something
21 this massive in this location will harm the garden, as
22 others are going to testify.

1 What I don't understand, has been stated and
2 demonstrated already by the gentleman bringing this
3 proposal, is why we're having this hearing today.

4 The Franklin avenue acquisition company knows
5 full well what the area zoning is this proposed 50%
6 luxury housing project is speculative, hoping to
7 realize a huge windfall if these exceptions are voted
8 through.

9 There is nothing that prevents them from building
10 affordable or middle class housing built and staffed
11 by Union Labor as they, you know, so appropriately
12 would like to do, at the as of right size.

13 No public agency has gone on record to support
14 this proposal. The Commission made your feelings clear
15 back in February and the developer didn't have the
16 professionalism to address these concerns or withdraw
17 their application, and instead is trying to hijack the
18 purpose of today's hearing to ram new information
19 through without a review. The Community board nine
20 spent two years with this proposal, they examined and
21 discussed it at great length over this extended period
22 of time and recommended that the proposal be rejected,
23 with no modification.

1 I hope the Commission will respect to this
2 request. In ULURP, The Community board is the first
3 way in because they represent those most affected by
4 local land use.

5 Community board nine has asked at any alternative
6 proposal for this site be submitted as a new project
7 with proper scoping studies and documentation,
8 allowing the full opportunity for the Community board
9 to evaluate and provide the recommendation.

10 I think i'm going to leave it at that there were
11 other recommendations that the Community board made,
12 but we are all aware of those I thank you so much for
13 the time that you are spending on this Proposal.

14 CHAIR LAGO: absolutely perfect timing, because
15 the three minutes have just expired. We always enjoy
16 welcoming new people to the wonderful world of ULURP.

17 And with that, questions from the Commission?

18 Thank you, Miss Peters.

19 Our next speaker testifying remotely is Diane
20 Steinberg who will be followed by Pamela Pettyjohn,
21 also remotely.

22 DIANE STEINBERG (TESTIFIER): Good morning, I'm
23 not sure I'm on and I -

24 CHAIR LAGO: Please continue, you're on.

1 STEINBERG: Okay, thank you very much. As chair of
2 the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens Board of Trustees, and on
3 behalf of our trustees, I'm honored to address the
4 Commissioners. Today I served my institution as a
5 volunteer and attend many buildings and fully
6 understand the importance of being brief.

7 A longtime resident of Brooklyn I've been a
8 trustee of the botanic garden for over 20 years.

9 I recently co-chaired our campaign for the new
10 century, where we raised over 120 million dollars,
11 which included significant city monies to improve our
12 garden's programming and access to this important
13 urban oasis.

14 As a New York City cultural institution, we
15 understand applaud and embrace the important vital
16 partnership that we have with the city in enriching
17 and supporting Brooklyn as well as the whole of New
18 York City. As the Chair, it is my responsibility to
19 safeguard our collection, our employees, our financial
20 position, while serving our Community and City.

21 That is why I am respectfully asking you today to
22 reject the proposed rezoning and protect Brooklyn's
23 botanic garden.

1 By shaving out hours of sunlight to the garden's
2 most sun dependent collections, the proposed towers
3 would do a mortal blow to our nurseries and
4 conservatories where BBG propagates and displays
5 plants from around the world. Our garden was created
6 over 110 years ago to beautify instruct, engage, and
7 serve citizens of all backgrounds, promoting an
8 appreciation and understanding of the vital role
9 nature implants have on society's wellbeing.

10 As you are aware, the current zoning, allowing
11 for seven stories, was deliberately, and of course
12 thoughtfully, put in place in 1991 to prevent
13 permanent damage to a cultural and social tool that is
14 our garden.

15 What has changed since then? Nothing. And I urge
16 you to reaffirm that intention and reject this harmful
17 rezoning.

18 Simply put, we really are in a fight for
19 sunlight. Once it's gone it won't come back, thank you
20 for your time and consideration.

21 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you, questions from the
22 Commission? Commissioner Doueck.

1 DOUECK: Thank you for your testimony. Has the
2 garden done any analysis of the impact from the R8A
3 and R8X sites that are presently next to the garden?

4 STEINBERG: I read - i'm sorry?

5 DOUECK: From prior to the construction of them to
6 after.

7 STEINBERG: I would have to defer to our experts
8 on what we've done in terms of understanding the
9 environmental impact. I know that we have done quite a
10 bit, and I believe that we have people today that will
11 be discussing that and I'm apologizing in advance for
12 not being able to be specific and I'm sorry, but there
13 will be experts that will be able to address that.

14 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you also note that the
15 environmental record is going to be kept open for a
16 number of days, I'll announce that at the end of the
17 hearing, and so you should feel free to submit any
18 written materials.

19 CHAIR LAGO: Commissioner Ortiz

20 Ortiz: I - not so much a question for her, but
21 for us and the Commission, and maybe we can answer
22 this right now but I would like some clarity on
23 whether we are in fact allowed to even consider the
24 lower density option here, given that you know, we

1 have not been able to review any of the impacts and
2 neither has the department, so you know, are we here,
3 in fact, considering that alternative, or do we need
4 to focus on the original proposal? And we're sort of
5 in discussion on that proposal, so that's something
6 that I would like some feedback on.

7 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you for posing the question. As
8 I noted that the beginning, generally the Department
9 would be able to have a view, had we received the
10 information in time. The Department will at the post
11 hearing follow up, come back and determine and advise
12 the commission as to whether it is within scope, but
13 Again, I don't see that the department has the time,
14 within the commission's timeframe, to be able to do
15 the type of analysis that the Commission is used to
16 from the department, which is to look at the
17 environmental impacts, but also the land use and the
18 urban design impacts of a rezoning of this type, so
19 thank you.

20 LEVIN: We don't even know what the alternative
21 is, we've gotten very sketchy information about it,
22 partial slides. I can't - I'm not asking anything
23 today about the alternative because I don't think

1 we've seen it. Yeah I think this hearing is all about
2 the original application.

3 COMMISSIONERS: Hear, hear.

4 CHAIR LAGO: Can ask questions about the initial
5 application and we certainly are here to hear from the
6 public, which is the purpose of this, so thank you,
7 Commissioners, both of you for the clarifications,
8 Commissioner Doueck .

9 DOUECK: Another question for you, Madam Chair,
10 what is the clock on this?

11 CHAIR LAGO: September 22 is the last date for the
12 commission's consideration. And again, I would note,
13 as the Commission is well aware that, with rezoning
14 proposals of this magnitude, the department generally
15 works in advance of certification, with the applicant,
16 for a period that is measured not weeks, but months,
17 to address environmental lenses and urban design
18 considerations, none of which we have seen.

19 Other questions?

20 Well, thank you, Miss Steinberg and we will move
21 on to Pamela Pettyjohn, who will be followed by
22 Katherine Schneider.

23 PAMELA PETTYJOHN (TESTIFIER): Good morning. I
24 need to contribute to the conversation the fact that

1 BBG cast broad sunlight across all of Brooklyn. Proved
2 positive after the devastation of Superstorm Sandy,
3 when the Coney Island Community needed emotional
4 uplifting, BBG rose to the challenge. The Garden
5 answered Coney Island Beautification Projects'
6 vaguely-described call for assistance and beautifying
7 our streets, tree beds, public spaces, Community
8 gardens, etc.

9 BBG stepped forward, becoming a valuable resource
10 between Coney Island Beautification Project and area
11 youth and senior groups, churches, schools, merchants,
12 tenant associations, homeowners, social and civic
13 groups. Specifically through BBG stewardship programs,
14 our group of community members learned a wealth of
15 information about the proper use of native and flood
16 resistant plants. The members of Coney Island
17 Beautification Project or part of over 70,000 Brooklyn
18 residents that participate and BBG Community garden
19 programs each year, such as Community Garden Alliance,
20 Greenest Park in Brooklyn, and making Brooklyn Bloom.
21 Our success is testimony to BBG. Brooklyn Botanical
22 Garden blooms as a teaching hub for gardeners and
23 educators across New York. BBG has helped us build
24 horticultural knowledge to support our community and

1 response to devastating effects of Superstorm Sandy.
2 They have equipped us with tools to build Community
3 engagement through gardening.

4 The greenhouse under threat by proposed 960
5 Franklin avenue development grows plants that are
6 displayed and BBG, along with thousands of plants that
7 are given away to schools and community groups such as
8 ours, every year. What starts out to be a small
9 seedling in these greenhouses grows to make BBG
10 stunning, world famous botanic garden that it is. they
11 also go on to live in community gardens and
12 streetscapes across the borough greening Brooklyn and
13 far beyond the garden gates. Brooklyn relies on BBG to
14 help green its neighborhoods right now. BBG is relying
15 on us to support its fight against harmful rezoning.
16 On behalf of Coney Island Beautification Project and
17 Community gardeners across Brooklyn, we stand with
18 BBG, and the group of supporters today. As my work
19 with my community has taught me anything, it is that
20 together we make a difference. don't turn out the
21 light, join the fight for sunlight, thank you.

22 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you. Perfect timing. Questions?

23 Thanks again Ms. Pettyjohn, our next speaker will
24 be Kathryn Schneider to be followed by Alicia Boyd.

1

2 KATHRYN SCHNEIDER (TESTIFIER): Hello.

3 CHAIR LAGO: Welcome.

4 SCHNEIDER: Oh there I am okay.

5 Good morning, my name is Kathryn Schneider, I am
6 a been a member of Brooklyn Botanic Garden for many
7 years, 40 years and I am now a volunteer. And as a
8 volunteer I'm a tour guide and, as I take people
9 around the garden, we have people coming from all
10 around Brooklyn all around the world and it's just the
11 most wonderful beautiful place and it makes everyone
12 very happy and gives them a feeling of peace and it's
13 just so wonderful and we welcome people also we are -
14 we have joined the American Disabilities Act. If
15 joined is the right word. But we are following that
16 and we have made the garden very we'll tear
17 accessible, we also have had training the volunteers
18 and the staff. To help people who are visually
19 impaired or have trouble hearing we are training to
20 help all these people have a good experience to.

21 We also do special programs for children on the
22 autistic spectrum and we sometimes open the garden,
23 especially for them, we also do programs for people
24 with dementia and special memory tours because people

1 want to mention respond very well to smells and
2 feelings and the colors of the garden.

3 And as a tour guide I have met people also who
4 grew up in Brooklyn they came to the Brooklyn Botanic
5 Garden as a child. Now they bring their children they
6 bring their grandchildren, so the love of the garden
7 has been passed down through the generations.

8 We've been a garden for over 100 years 111, to be
9 exact, and is brought so much joy and so much
10 Community involvement and we need green spaces, as we
11 saw during COVID, the more green spaces we have, the
12 better people do in our city, we call the botanic
13 garden the jewel of Brooklyn because it is such a very
14 special place, we need to keep it safe and protected
15 forever Thank you.

16 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you, questions for Ms.
17 Schneider.

18 Thanks again for testifying, our next speaker
19 will be Alicia Boyd, to be followed by Ramon Torres.

20 Hello, my name is Alicia Boyd, and I represent
21 Movement to Protect the People and FLAC, Flower Lovers
22 Against Corruption, we are a neighborhood group and I
23 just want to set the record straight, because it was a
24 few lies that were stated in that presentation by the

1 developer, first and foremost, the 1991 rezoning
2 specifically targeted three soft sites, sites A, B and
3 C that will be behind Washington avenue on Franklin
4 avenue and the 965 was the C soft site which was
5 considered the worst possible scenario, because it was
6 the closest to the.

7 Sorry, it was the closest.

8 (NOISE INTERRUPTION)

9 Was the closest to the Garden

10 Am I getting more time for this?

11 CHAIR LAGO: Yes please yeah we're just having
12 technical difficulties.

13 BOYD: Okay, so just for that so for the 1991
14 specifically targeted the 960 Franklin avenue and
15 stated very clearly That an R8 would be the last or
16 R8A would be the last acceptable because, once you put
17 the bulkheads and now the fresh program you would
18 exceed it to a 235 foot development project not 175 as
19 stated, I also want to state that the R8X, that the
20 city planning Commission approved two years ago
21 underneath the corner of Willoughby has been Null and
22 Voided by the Supreme Court so again it's a misnomer
23 that that development project continues to be
24 displayed when it's no longer being classified as

1 lawful because they did not do - city planning did not
2 do an environmental review process.

3 Also, I just wanted to put on the record that the
4 reason why the City Planning Commission seems to have
5 changed his mind and stated that no adverse effects
6 will happen to this garden is because the Community
7 activists in this Community, including MTOP and FLAC
8 members file the lawsuit in November when the City
9 Planning Commission was going to approve this project
10 say no adverse effects will happen, and once we follow
11 that last two three months later, you guys turned
12 around and change your mind and said that it would.

13 So I just want to point out that we have been
14 diligently working against this development project,
15 and what we find really offensive is now, a 17 story
16 proposal is being submitted and the Community has not
17 had an opportunity to see it. The Community board has
18 not had an opportunity to see it, and so, and yet this
19 process is supposed to be for Community input, so how
20 can you even consider looking at a 17 story proposal
21 when you have when the developer has not done their
22 due diligence, nor city planning, and providing that
23 information to us.

1 So we would we would demand that before you even
2 think about that 17 story alternative to R8X that that
3 proposal will be given, and I just have one question I
4 have one question CHAIR LAGO.

5 What was the borough president's decision because
6 he did not get that. What was his decision?

7 CHAIR LAGO: again the questions come from the
8 Commission to those testifying, thank you for
9 testifying and at this point, I would ask the third
10 questions for Ms. Boyd.

11 Thank you.

12 Yes, Commissioner Ortiz.

13 ORTIZ: I would say that you know we are here to
14 consider the original submission, you know we've I
15 think that's a concern for us to not being able to see
16 and assess the new proposal, so I think you're
17 absolutely right on that point, thank you

18 BOYD: About what was the borough president's
19 recommendations, because we didn't get that?

20 What was his recommendation?

21 CHAIR LAGO: Again that will be a matter of public
22 record and the questions don't come from the
23 testifiers

1 LEVIN: Can we just - I have not seen the borough
2 Presidents recommendation I don't believe my
3 colleagues on the commission's and seen it either, we
4 do not, we have not seen it and I'll be a matter of
5 public record location one or two submitted.

6 CHAIR LAGO: now ask Marvin Ciporn, who will be
7 followed by Edwin Hurble.

8 MARVIN CIPORAN (TESTIFIER): My name is Marvin
9 Ciporn and I'm a lifelong resident of Brooklyn and I
10 urge you to reject any developmental proposal that
11 would harm Brooklyn botanic gardens.

12 The gardens future is a great personal concern to
13 me, I grew up in a poor immigrant neighborhood in
14 Brownsville. My classmates and I love visiting the
15 garden in school, many of us put flower seeds for one
16 or two cents, which was a lot of money for us. And we
17 grew then in boxes on our fire places and we learned
18 how to take care of things my daughters took their
19 first steps on uneven surfaces in cherry lane. And
20 now, my grandchildren are exploring nature and the
21 discovery garden, I want the botanic gardens to be
22 there for their grandchildren.

23 I realized that you're often called upon to weigh
24 competing interests, however, as you read studies

1 conducted by experts, including those who helped
2 developer prepare the legal documents you'll see that
3 this project would create irreparable harm to the
4 garden. 960 Franklin avenue will destroy the garden.

5 There are many sites that a developer could build
6 on, but there's only one Brooklyn Botanical Garden,
7 and it has a sensitive ecosystem that cannot be moved.

8 Before I came here, I thought that it was absurd
9 first even be discussing this issue after hearing the
10 organic fertilizer presentation by the developer, I'm
11 outraged that he's taken up all of the time and
12 resources of city entities of the botanic gardens at
13 this difficult time in our city's history and it's not
14 had the decency or probably the capability of
15 producing the needed information in a timely and
16 appropriate session, this is clearly not a developer,
17 who could be trusted to go forward and create a
18 project that would be meaningful and I again want to
19 remind you, A, that the botanic gardens brings
20 thousands of visitors to the city and millions of
21 dollars to us, the city's invested millions of dollars
22 in the garden, and that money will be wasted,
23 moreover, everyone on the Community board who
24 testified at the Community board hearing explicitly

1 said, this will not create affordable housing and two
2 of the points in the resolution that the Community
3 board overwhelmingly asking you to reject all claims
4 from this developer stated explicitly why it won't be
5 creating the affordable housing that it claims. This
6 is bogus. This is an insult to your work it's an
7 insult to all new Yorkers and it's a crime that you
8 should not allow us to continue, please make sure you
9 vote this down.

10 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you there your time is up, and
11 if I could clarify, you are Mr Hurple?

12 CIPORN: No, Marvin Ciporn, excuse me Marvin
13 Ciporn and I thought that you had called my name and

14 CHAIR LAGO: No I'm afraid not, I just wanted to
15 make sure that we had,

16 CIPORN: But I am. I am on the speakers list.

17 SINGER: Mr Torres is waiting on zoom to speak so
18 would you

19 CIPORN: Okay yeah I could also get my name
20 changed.

21 (LAUGHTER)

22 CHAIR LAGO: could you spell your last name? So
23 everyone-

1 CIPORN: CIPORN and first name is Marvin, and
2 again I thank you all.

3 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you questions for Mr Ciporn?
4 Okay you're off the hook, and our next speaker will be
5 Ramon Torres who is testifying remotely who will be
6 followed by Edwin Hurple.

7 RAMON TORRES (TESTIFIER): can you hear me.

8 CHAIR LAGO: yes, please okay.

9 TORRES: Good morning, Chair Lago and members of
10 the Commission. My name is Ramon Torres and I'm a
11 member of 32BJ. I'm here today on behalf of my Union
12 to express our support for the proposed project at 960
13 Franklin avenue. 32 BJ is the largest Property
14 Services union in the country, representing 85,000
15 property service workers in New York City, including
16 many who live in the Crown Heights neighborhood 32 BJ
17 support responsible developers who invest in the
18 communities where they build.

19 I'm happy to report that developer Bruce
20 Eichner's Continuum company and Lincoln Equities Group
21 has made incredible commitment to creating prevailing
22 wage building service jobs and affordable housing at
23 the site this commitment is an investment in the
24 Community by providing wages and benefits that get

1 working families that opportunity for upward mobility
2 security and provide permanent affordable housing.
3 This development will also offer new affordable
4 housing units with 50% of those units being given
5 preference to current Community Board 9 residents. We
6 know this development will continue to uphold the
7 industry standard and provide opportunities for
8 working families to thrive in crown heights.

9 We need good paying jobs that can lift our
10 neighbors up, we need access to housing, that we could
11 afford. On behalf of 32BJ SEIU, I respectfully urge
12 you to approve this project, thank you very much.

13 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you, questions for Mr Torres.

14 Again, thank you our next speaker will be Edwin
15 Hurple who will be followed by Chase Rickets. Sir, if
16 you could take your mask on those orders with our
17 protocol.

18 Hurple (TESTIFIER): My name is Edwin Hurple, I'm
19 from Brooklyn I strongly oppose the rezoning of the
20 area. If the towers go up, then people's spirits will
21 be will be let down.

22 If the towers reaches 34 stories, then I will
23 tell future generations a true story about how greedy

1 and how cold hearted these developers are, caring more
2 about money than about nature.

3 The towers will block the sunlight from entering
4 the garden destroying and killing thousands and
5 thousands of plants. The garden is the heart and the
6 soul of not only Crown Heights but of Brooklyn.

7 Since this project will block the sunlight, the
8 whole community deserves this project to be blocked.
9 Thank you.

10 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you, questions for Mr. Hurble?

11 Again, thank you. Our next speaker will be Chase
12 Ricketts to be followed by Adrian Benepe.

13 LASHAUN ELLIS: Hello, I will be taking Chase
14 Ricketts place.

15 CHAIR LAGO: I'm afraid that that is not -

16 ELLIS: I'm on the list to speak but I actually am
17 on a time clock so i'm

18 CHAIR LAGO: I'm afraid-. I am i'm afraid that we
19 follow the order in which

20 ELLIS: He has to - he is not going to go so I'm
21 going to take his place, thank you.

22 CHAIR LAGO: I'm afraid that we don't have that
23 possibility and so we will move on.

24 ELLIS: Why is that?

1 CHAIR LAGO: Again, because, out of consideration
2 we consider people in order, and we would be glad to
3 hear from Mr. Rickets and then to hear from you again

4 ELLIS: Okay, Chase? can I take your place love?
5 No?

6 CHAIR LAGO: No i'm afraid i'm afraid that's not
7 possible and we would welcome, we have had, people
8 like Chase testify, and we would very much welcome
9 that, I mean if Chase can be yes. Please. Please, we
10 would welcome hearing from him. Okay i'm afraid not,
11 then we will move on.

12 ELLIS: Can I - can I just go? I am on the list,
13 but I cannot wait the amount of time, because I have a
14 child waiting for me -

15 CHAIR LAGO: I'm afraid that's not possible. We
16 would welcome him saying whether he is in support or
17 in opposition.

18 ELLIS: I just need an accommodation that's what
19 I'm asking for. He doesn't want to go and I have a
20 time limit, because my child needs to be fed. Please
21 let me go.

22 CHAIR LAGO: Ma'am, other people also - somebody
23 is waiting. If you could cut off the microphone.

1 ELLIS: You're wasting the time, could you just
2 please let me go?

3 SINGER: Cut the mics.

4 CHAIR LAGO: Again, one Mr - when you will yield
5 the floor to Mr Benepe, we can then continue and Mr
6 Benepe, he will be followed by Elizabeth Goldstein and
7 Leonard Paul.

8 ELLIS: (Inaudible) But it's for you to decide as
9 a community -

10 No, it is an accommodation in consideration of so
11 many people that have time considerations we follow
12 the order in which people.

13 ELLIS: (Inaudible) Person waiting to be fed? Is
14 there anyone else who has a little person waiting to
15 be fed?

16 CHAIR LAGO: Yes, ma'am ma'am again you're just
17 delaying the rest of - you're delaying the hearing.

18 SINGER: Ma'am you're out of order, you will be
19 asked to leave.

20 CHAIR LAGO: And again you are holding up the
21 testimony of others. Again ma'am. Please.

22 ELLIS: Protocol? That's ridiculous. You guys are
23 all brainwashed, believing that it's protocol. I am
24 asking for a time accommodation.

1 CHAIR LAGO: If we could welcome Mr Benepe to be
2 followed by Elizabeth Goldstein.

3 ADRIAN BENEPE (TESTIFIER): Mic is on? Great. Good
4 morning chair Lago, commissioners, I'm Adrian Benepe,
5 President of Brooklyn Botanic Garden, thank you for
6 the opportunity to give testimony today about the
7 threat caused by the proposed rezoning of 960 Franklin
8 and a word, it would be devastating.

9 Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a distinct and rare
10 living collection of ecological and botanic interest,
11 whose beauty and diversity attracts more than 800,000
12 visitors a year, making it the most visited cultural
13 attraction in Brooklyn.

14 In 2014 the garden was awarded the national medal
15 of excellence from the Institute of Museums and
16 Library Services, the nation's highest honor for its
17 work in its community, especially for its dedication
18 to providing free education to children, adults and
19 community greeting at school programming.

20 50% of the gardens collection of 12,000 taxa are
21 housed in the conservatory complex encompassing 23
22 distinct chambers. These chambers house collections of
23 desert, tropical, and warm temperate plants, some rare
24 and endangered, such as the Wollemi pine, as well as

1 world class collections of orchids and the largest
2 collection of bonsai in the northeast, several more
3 than 200 years old.

4 Some of those inner chambers are used for
5 horticultural display, while others are back of house
6 greenhouses used for the propagation of young plants
7 or the preservation of rare or endangered wild plants
8 Some seized from smugglers by US customs officials.

9 These facilities contain plant collections of
10 international importance. All of BBG's conservatories
11 lie and the direct path the massive morning shadow of
12 the proposed tall towers at 960 Franklin. Moreover,
13 all of BBG's annual and perennial plants are produced
14 in one of several nursery spaces, with a conservatory
15 for rental out planting in the garden.

16 There is no other place to accomplish this work,
17 therefore, the direct shadows on BBG's propagation and
18 growing facilities will have a dire potential impact
19 on the entirety of the gardens living collections.

20 The developers own EIS admits that the shadow
21 impacts of the garden would make displaying some of
22 his collections impossible due to lack of sunlight.
23 The desert collection, for example, according to the
24 developers report, could need to be closed.

1 I want to emphasize this project, but not only
2 impact BBG. The shadows cast on Jackie Robinson
3 playground will take away afternoon sun during the
4 cooler shoulder seasons and the winter will deprive
5 them mature London plain trees have needed sunlight
6 and will greatly impact the Medgar Evers college
7 campus and this new landscaped plaza that opened weeks
8 ago.

9 The shadow will stretch, will also stretch all
10 the way across the garden, across Flatbush avenue and
11 well into Prospect Park.

12 BBG is proud to stand with the community, I want
13 to note the presence of the consistent leadership of
14 MTOF and Alicia Boyd who could teach a course in pro
15 se legal affairs.

16 I want to note that many elected officials and
17 City Planning Commissioners have publicly opposed the
18 project because of the harm it would cause the gardens
19 and surrounding neighborhood. In closing, the garden
20 is not a generic parcel of urban open space. It is a
21 111 year old global leader in urban botanical display
22 in education, in an era when more than half of the
23 world's population lives in cities.

1 30 years ago this body put in place zoning for
2 the Crown Heights, specifically designed to protect
3 the sunlight, without which the city's Botanic Garden
4 and world renowned plant collection cannot survive.

5 BBG deserves the ongoing protection from the
6 Planning Commission for its distinctive collections
7 and programs, and, on behalf of the hundreds of
8 thousands of residents who find respite, inspiration,
9 and education in its beauty, we urge you to keep in
10 place the zoning thoughtfully put in place, and
11 reinforce that which you did three decades ago. Thank
12 you very much.

13 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you. Thank you, our next
14 speaker will be Elizabeth Goldstein to be followed by
15 Leonard Paul.

16 ELIZABETH GOLDSTEIN (TESTIFIER) Good morning, and
17 thank you for this opportunity I'm Elizabeth
18 Goldstein, the president of the Municipal Art Society.

19 For more than two years, MAS has analyzed the
20 development proposed at 960 Franklin. There is no
21 doubt that this luxury condo tower absurdly cloaked as
22 an engine for affordable housing would have
23 devastating impacts on Crown Heights.

1 The project's shadow would have vast and
2 irreversible effects on the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens
3 particularly it's conservatories, greenhouses, and
4 nurseries.

5 At the height of the summer growing season some
6 areas of the garden would have would lose more than
7 four hours of sunlight during the day.

8 The darkness cast would be so vast, in fact, that
9 the nearby Jackie Robinson playground would experience
10 year-round shadow impacts, including being cast
11 completely in shadow in periods throughout the months
12 of March, September, and June. On some of the coldest
13 days of the year streets and sidewalks would receive
14 zero hours of sunlight.

15 BBG and MAS have done a much deeper study into
16 the actual sunlight needs of iconic plants of the most
17 important species of the garden, and the most
18 important of species, humans, the users of BBG, Jackie
19 Robinson, and Medgar Evers College. We will send you a
20 letter detailing those findings shortly.

21 Furthermore, the so-called affordable units in
22 this building our targeted to accommodate families
23 with an income as high as \$122,880 per year in a

1 neighborhood where the actual median income is closer
2 to 70,000.

3 Any suggestion by this developer that this
4 project would address the city's affordability crisis
5 is as ludicrous as it is cynical. More than 70,000.
6 people have opposed this project by signing BBG's
7 Fight for Light petition against the project.

8 This is not a proposal that can be tweaked on the
9 margins and made palatable. Even the 34 story
10 alternative proposed by the development does
11 vanishingly little to mitigate its impacts.

12 Safeguarding light and air is the origin story of
13 zoning as a practice. As you know, this building is
14 part of that story. It is also the origin story of
15 this very specific zoning that was put in place for
16 this area of Brooklyn.

17 Nothing offered by the 960 Franklin project is
18 valuable enough for the city to lift its established,
19 intentional, and well-considered zoning that this
20 Commission put in place all those years ago to protect
21 this area from just this development.

22 This may seem esoteric but the truth is that we
23 all know, intrinsically what light means. We seek it
24 out in the homes we live in, and the places where we

1 gather. We know that an urban neighborhood is made up
2 of more than steel and concrete. 960 Franklin is an -

3 CHAIR LAGO: I'm afraid that your time is up, but
4 please feel free to submit your testimony and or
5 letter. Questions for Ms. Goldstein?

6 Thank you.

7 Our next speaker is Leonard Paul who will be
8 followed by Grace Betts.

9 LEONARD PAUL (TESTIFIER): Good morning
10 Commissioners, my name is Lenny Paul and I'm the
11 foreman of the Steinhardt conservatory and nursery at
12 the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The area that is going to
13 be mostly affected by 960. I'm also the President of
14 local 374 of district council 37.

15 Thank you for allowing me to come before you
16 today. BBG's conservatory is a year round operation.
17 We're open in the middle of winter, when the
18 temperature dives below zero degrees, to the middle of
19 summer when the temperature soars over 100 degrees.

20 We're a special place to visitors, displaying
21 over 4500 different tax of plants ranging from as far
22 away as Africa, Asia, Australia, North, South and
23 Central America. While you're in the conservatory, the

1 tropical pavilion and looks and feels like you are in
2 an actual real rain forest.

3 You are greeted by a towering 65 foot tall
4 mahogany tree. There are fruit trees, such as bananas,
5 papaya, mangoes, guavas, star fruit, jack fruit,
6 soursop, cocoa, and coffee, literally with fruits
7 hanging from them.

8 In a warm temporary pavilion, a Wollemi pine tree
9 welcomes you. This tree was believed to be extinct by
10 botanists.

11 Our desert prevalent displays cacti from from the
12 old and new world, including the Mojave and African
13 desert.

14 Or aquatic position displays a vast collection of
15 orchids, including the tiger tiger orchid, one of the
16 largest orchids in the world.

17 We also very proud to have one of the largest
18 bonsai trees collection in the northeast.
19 Additionally, our nursery produces approximately
20 23,000 seedlings annually, which are all displayed all
21 over the garden and spectacular bed borders and
22 containers.

1 The 960 Franklin avenue project will have a
2 catastrophic and devastating impact on these growing
3 areas due to the shading.

4 Without adequate sunlight, plant's health will
5 suffer, resulting in many species unable to produce
6 flowers and fruits, thus making them susceptible to
7 pests and diseases. Our nursery, we will not be able
8 to produce the amount of seedlings we're gonna need
9 for displays.

10 In order to protect the maintain the health and
11 longevity of BBG's world class plant collection, we
12 must keep the current zoning and firmly oppose any
13 rezoning.

14 I want to tell you a story of a personal interest
15 in doing my time at BBG we've had a few accidents of
16 my colleagues crossing Washington Avenue, I've not
17 heard any discussion about the traffic scenario in
18 Washington avenue so far.

19 Most recently, one of my colleagues was crossing
20 Washington avenue, he was hit by a car and thrown six
21 feet up in the air. He landed on the road and
22 shattered his leg.

23 Fortunately for him, he survived. Unfortunately,
24 he had to retire early, earlier than he wanted to. The

1 traffic congestion on Washington avenue is a nightmare
2 for those of us who live and work there right now.
3 Think about putting up another building and the
4 increase in density of the traffic. We have not heard
5 any kind of suggestions of how they're going to deal
6 with this. Thank you Commissioner for your time.

7 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you, Mr Paul. And I have to
8 compliment you on your incredibly vivid imagery. I
9 could almost see the plants that you described.

10 PAUL: That was - that was the idea.

11 CHAIR LAGO: Questions? questions for Mr Paul?
12 You're off the hook.

13 Next is Grace Betts to be followed by Paul
14 Friedman.

15 GRACE BETTS (TESTIFIER): Good morning, Chair Lago
16 and Commissioners. I'm most concerned about the light
17 and the destruction that will cause in the garden, but
18 I'd like to think back to the foresight that the
19 planners had when they chose to preserve that land,
20 and dedicate it as a botanic garden, and how wonderful
21 it has been that the garden has grown in so many
22 different ways and been put to such good use, and has
23 made a big difference to everyone in the community,
24 and largely to the world community.

1 I'm myself born in Brooklyn and have lived in the
2 area near Prospect Lefferts gardens for over 30 years
3 now, and the projects that have been supported by the
4 garden and have educated and helped people learn to
5 use plants in the whole community of Brooklyn, is
6 palpably seen.

7 When I was first on my block on Lincoln road,
8 people didn't put out planters. They were afraid of
9 things being stolen, and now, with all the
10 intervention of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden classes,
11 outreach, and other ways that they have promoting
12 gardening in the whole borough of Brooklyn and beyond,
13 it's a whole different story. So come out and look at
14 the neighborhoods.

15 I think I remember also, I worked as a social
16 worker at Prospect Heights high school? Prospect high
17 school? It's been a long time. Anyway yeah, thank you,
18 and I would walk home through the garden sometimes and
19 just, the feeling of having the stress of the day
20 lifted and enjoying the beauty of the garden and
21 seeing, even in the winter. The little flowers on the
22 some of the trees and, it's priceless.

23 I thank the early planners, and hope that this
24 group of planners for the city will look forward and

1 strengthen If anything, the viability of the garden
2 and not allow for those shadows to disrupt what the
3 garden has to offer neighbors and visitors. Thank you.

4 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you for your testimony.
5 Questions?

6 Thank you, then our next speaker will be Paul
7 Friedman, to be followed by Esteban Giron.

8 PAUL FRIEDMAN (TESTIFIER): Okay. I've lived in
9 the neighborhood for 31 years, a member of the
10 Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and along with Grace who just
11 spoke we live on Lincoln road the block between Rogers
12 avenue and Bedford avenue. And, among the many
13 benefits that we've gotten from the botanic garden is
14 participation in their greenest block in Brooklyn
15 Program, which has done a lot to inspire the gardeners
16 on our block.

17 Many of the previous speakers have already
18 testified about the importance of the Botanic Garden
19 to the community, to Brooklyn at large to the whole
20 city to visitors from around the world. And the
21 adverse effects on the garden and other aspects of the
22 community that would be caused by this development.

23 I won't try to add on to what they've already
24 said it's been very clearly said. I'm wondering if the

1 developers dispute The effect that their development
2 would have on the garden, or if they simply believe
3 that their interests are more important than the
4 effects that it would have on the garden.

5 They are correct in saying that the development
6 is close to the 2, 3, 4, 5, B, Q, the bus, the
7 Franklin shuttle. I don't know what the effect of the
8 increased population would do to those transportation
9 aspects that are already so crowded. I don't know if
10 they've taken that into account at all, aside from the
11 fact that our neighborhood benefits from this
12 accessibility to transit. The clear thing I can say is
13 that I object to any kind of development that would
14 have any adverse effect on the botanic garden for all
15 the reasons that you have already heard, thank you.

16 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you, questions for Mr Friedman?

17 Thank you, our next speaker will be Esteban Giron
18 on followed by Michael Hollingsworth.

19 Hi, my name Esteban Giron, I'm a member of the
20 Crown Heights Tenant Union, as well as serving on the
21 board of Tenants PAC.

22 Well over two years ago at the scoping hearing
23 here in this room, representatives for this developer
24 promise to engage the community of South Crown Heights

1 more actively, particularly after CB nine's land use
2 committee held a preliminary vote on the proposed
3 project.

4 I serve on that committee and have done so for
5 the past five years, we voted unanimously to reject
6 the project then, well, unless and until the developer
7 made a good faith effort to address our concerns. That
8 engagement never happened and it's been two years.

9 Rather than make that effort, these folks simply
10 hired a lobbying firm, Mercury Public Affairs, to
11 create an astroturf campaign that gives the appearance
12 of public engagement.

13 It's reported that they spent upwards of five
14 figures on that effort, which is mind boggling. What's
15 happening here today, the last minute crises, the
16 audacity and disrespect for our time and effort of
17 this Commission, in fact, this has been the M. O. of
18 this developer all along.

19 They refused to give us important documents that
20 we asked for, they evaded our questions, they think
21 this is a game and I think, I guess, since I have a
22 couple more minutes left, I want to make clear: This
23 developer is not some sort of benevolent champion of
24 the working class known for their commitment to the

1 labor movement. This project is financed by the AFL
2 CIO retirement trust, the financing carries with it a
3 mandatory union labor for the project, construction
4 and building management. That's why union labor must
5 be used, even if it's done as an as-of-right building,
6 so don't buy any of that uh you know working class
7 solidarity fakeness.

8 Tenants, Union workers, small business owners,
9 students in the working class, mostly folks of color
10 of South Crown Heights are not willing to watch as
11 another disrespectful entitled old white guy colonizes
12 black and brown folks out of our own communities,
13 thank you.

14 CHAIR LAGO: Questions for Mr. Giron?

15 Okay, our next speaker than will be Michael
16 Hollingsworth who will be followed by William Antizzu.

17 MICHAEL HOLLINGSWORTH (TESTIFIER): Thank you, my
18 name is Michael Hollingsworth, I'm a lifelong
19 Brooklynite and resident of Crown Heights, and to be
20 specific, I live in the southern portion of Crown
21 Heights.

22 I live one block away from the Spice factory,
23 which is 960 Franklin avenue and I live directly
24 across the street from the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens,

1 despite the efforts of the negro liberal 'bourgeois
2 (?)' elected class to displace us through
3 gentrification, we as black people still live here.

4 We are a poor to working class community. We're
5 still a neighborhood in which we make on average
6 between 35 to \$40,000 a year. We're still a majority
7 black American and West Indian community, and we
8 continue to be targeted for luxury development.

9 Brooklyn Jewish hospital, gone, replaced with
10 market rate housing, with new luxury condos being
11 developed across the street.

12 Our Bedford Union armory, given away to private
13 developers. A 50 year supermarket will be closed in
14 two days to allow for more luxury housing along
15 Bedford avenue. A daycare center has been demolished,
16 to be replaced with a parking lot and a bank across
17 the street, will also be closed.

18 Rent-stabilized units and buildings are being
19 illegally deregulated, Frankensteined, and emptied out
20 to allow for more luxury housing.

21 And now, they want to build the largest luxury
22 complex in Brooklyn in Crown Heights, which will
23 destroy our garden and continue the awful tradition of
24 displacing black people.

1 We in Crown Heights have done our share in
2 filling the city's luxury quota, no more. Build your
3 glass tower somewhere else. Please reject this
4 project.

5 The last thing I'll say is this, I was once a
6 little black kid who lived in Crown Heights, I've
7 lived here for 40 years. My family was able to find
8 affordable housing. I was also a kid with asthma and
9 the only place I felt like I could breathe and run
10 around and play was in the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens.

11 Our future kids deserve to have that same
12 experience I had as a kid and so that's why I ask you
13 to reject this project, thank you.

14 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you so much Mr. Hollingsworth.

15 Our next speaker will be William Antizzu followed
16 by Barbara Kurland.

17 WILLIAM ANTIZZU (TESTIFIER): My name is actually
18 William Olmsted Antizzu the third. I am a relative of
19 the landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, the
20 landscape architect to Prospect Park Central Park and
21 whose firm provided the original layout of the
22 Botanical Gardens.

23 I'm also an architect in Brooklyn, over 15 years
24 experience working with some of the most renowned

1 firms in the world, such as Renzo Piano Building
2 Workshop and Diller Scofidio Renfro, and I've worked
3 on projects, similar to the one being discussed today.

4 Over the last 10 years, Brooklyn has consistently
5 increased the number of housing units faster than any
6 other borough, at an 8% clip, with over 40 skyscrapers
7 been constructed in downtown Brooklyn alone. With its
8 rezoning, this development would increase the
9 borough's housing by 0.15%, yet threatens the ability
10 of the Brooklyn botanical garden to continue serving
11 the remaining 99.85% of the residents, and the other
12 boroughs of New York City.

13 As you know, after nearly 100 years of existence
14 in 1991 the development on bordering lots was limited,
15 with the intention to protect the plant life of the
16 Botanical Garden.

17 Last September mayor de Blasio said, quote: "the
18 work that was done 30 years ago was for that moment in
19 history," however, in my opinion, the work that was
20 done 30 years ago was exactly for this moment in
21 history. They saw the day coming and acted on it.

22 This is not about one building. There will always
23 be a desire to build in this area, this is about what
24 precedent you are going to set for the next 40

1 buildings. The balance of allowing beneficial new
2 development without harming the Botanic Garden is
3 possible, but it has to be thoughtful and with
4 compassion, through intelligent urban planning and
5 design.

6 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you, questions for Mr Olmsted
7 Antuzzi?

8 Thank you.

9 Our next speaker will be Barbara Kurland to be
10 followed by Rowan Blaik.

11 KURLAND: Good morning, commissioners Thank you so
12 much for the opportunity to speak, my name is Barbara
13 Kurland. I am a staff members of Brooklyn Botanic
14 garden in the education department. I'm the director
15 of learning and partnerships, which means that I get
16 to teach and learn.

17 With all the children and teachers from schools
18 that visit the garden, whether through our outreach
19 programs, our partnership high school the Brooklyn
20 Academy of science in the environment, all the self-
21 guided groups to come on, public, private, parochial.

22 I'm here to speak in opposition to the proposed
23 rezoning that would permit the construction of
24 buildings that would take away the light that the

1 plant collections of the garden receive and threaten
2 the survival of plants.

3 Channeling my colleague Leonard Paul, the
4 garden's threefold mission centered education over 111
5 years ago. Children youth teachers and families visit
6 the garden and all seasons.

7 Imagine, as Leonard had you do, but I'm going to
8 have you imagine standing under this banana plant
9 rather than the mahogany. And you're standing there
10 with third graders, you're looking out the windows of
11 the conservatory and there's snow on the ground
12 because it's January, but you're looking up at a
13 banana full of fruit, and one of the students says to
14 you, "Do you need those bananas taken down? I know how
15 to do it, I can help you do it". Because he's done it
16 at his grandfather's house when he visits.

17 The plants of the Steinhardt conservatory, the
18 desert, the tropical, all the warm temperate plants,
19 allow us to make observations, pose questions, and
20 explore phenomena of our plants and the environment,
21 for in authentic and tangible ways they are our
22 classrooms.

1 They also are a place where without leaving
2 Brooklyn, many can visit the places they are their
3 families call home.

4 Any month of the year, in any season of the year,
5 it's a place where stories are told, knowledge is
6 shared. Plants are powerful. The collection is
7 impacted by shadows cast by buildings that exceed the
8 current zoning limitations are valuable resources for
9 all of our education programs, in addition to our
10 schools. Our teen apprentices are engaging families
11 and visitors that carnivorous plants, there are pre-K
12 learners are visiting every day just walking safely
13 across the street. We see little ones in the garden
14 all year long, adult learners in our continuing
15 education program. We have a trail of evolution
16 exhibit, it's one of the rarest exhibits in the world,
17 very few botanic gardens have it.

18 And we have adults learning at that exhibit,
19 participants in our memory tours and you heard from
20 Kit about those. Students in the Climate U program at
21 New York City Tech have started visiting regularly and
22 documenting our plan collection.

1 Please, protect and preserve our plants for all
2 learners. Please keep the sunlight on. Thank you so
3 much

4 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you questions for Ms. Kurland?
5 Thank you.

6 Our next speaker will be Rowan Blaik, to be
7 followed by Charlotte Bloomberg.

8 ROWAN BLAIK (TESTIFIER): Good morning, my name is
9 Rowan Blake, Vice President of horticulture at BBG.
10 I've managed BBG's living collection since 2017, thank
11 you for this opportunity to speak.

12 Plants need sunlight to thrive and survive. For
13 that reason I oppose the proposed rezoning. For a 52-
14 acre garden, BBG's plant collections have a global
15 footprint. They represent every group in the kingdom,
16 every continent, except Antarctica and every major
17 habitat on Earth.

18 From the rarest endangered species to plants
19 every New Yorker could grow on a windowsill, BBG,
20 through its gardens collection and programs is an
21 exemplary urban botanic garden.

22 A reminder what is at risk here: a fifth of our
23 long term plant collections, 7000 taxa of more than
24 18,000 plants, are housed in our conservatories. And

1 the rest of the garden, plus local schools and
2 community gardens rely on our propagation facilities,
3 which colleagues have said propagate tens of thousands
4 of plants a year.

5 It's taken 111 years of continual care, community
6 support and investment of public funds to build up
7 this collection. These plants have been acquired from
8 thousands of sources reciprocally, from international
9 network of botanic gardens, some conservation work in
10 the wild, and many private donors.

11 Analysis has shown that around four hours of
12 direct sunlight will be lost from these intensive
13 growing spaces. The damage to plant health, our
14 facilities, and the diversity of our current
15 collections will be year-round and irreversible.

16 It would also hamper our ability to acquire and
17 share plant material in the future, and jeopardize our
18 ability and accreditation to work with state and
19 federal agencies on vital plant conservation projects.

20 The audacity of this proposal is astounding.
21 First the developer said that only plants on the lots
22 at 960 Franklin would be affected, even though it's
23 150 feet due east from the gardens most sunlight-
24 sensitive facilities and plants. Then they said no

1 significant, shadow impacts were to be expected, then
2 begrudgingly that irreversible significant negative
3 impacts would occur.

4 A garden is possibly the ultimate sunlight-
5 sensitive resource, with no viable alternative to
6 natural sunlight. By every measure, including the
7 developers own consultants and assessments, the
8 proposal development would be terrible for the garden
9 and it's collections.

10 What the developers asked you to do here is to
11 vote for an act of cultural and scientific vandalism.
12 Please oppose any rezoning of 960 Franklin avenue.
13 Thank you for your time.

14 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you, Mr Blaik. Questions?

15 Thank you.

16 Our next speaker will be Charlotte Bloomberg, to
17 be followed by Ashley Gagany .

18 SINGER: Just you know, Ms. Bloomberg is via zoom,
19 so we'll -

20 CHAIR LAGO: Great. Thank you.

21 Charlotte Bloomberg: Hello. (Echoes)

22 CHAIR LAGO: Welcome. It appears that you have two
23 pieces of equipment, perhaps on if you could mute or

1 move to another room, one of them. Please feel free to
2 begin.

3 CHARLOTTE BLOOMBERG (TESTIFIER): Sorry. My name
4 is Charlotte. My name is Charlotte Bloomberg and I
5 moved to Brooklyn 43 years ago to Prospect Lefferts
6 Gardens and immediately joined the Brooklyn Botanic
7 Garden.

8 Today, one of the architect drew our attention to
9 the space between his two towers - you'll notice there
10 was a driveway running through it - and call that open
11 community space. They didn't mention that forever,
12 forever he was changing the environment of the
13 Brooklyn Botanic Garden, casting shadows on Medgar
14 Evers College. And the Jackie Robinson playground.

15 The zoning was created to protect and preserve
16 the garden. It was thoughtful, respectful to the
17 generations to come, a gift to all of us, a garden to
18 treasure. Brooklyn's jewel. This non-green building
19 will forever impact the garden and the surrounding
20 areas. In years to come, if this zoning is changed to
21 allow this monstrosity And the other buildings that
22 will surely follow to take advantage of the change
23 zoning, our children, their children, will ask how did
24 this happen, what were they thinking?

1 For what they will see is not what exists now,
2 but they will know what it looked like because they
3 will find it in their grandparents photo albums.

4 We cannot let this happen.

5 Talks about affordable housing, previous speakers
6 have addressed that, but this will not bring
7 affordable housing to Crown Heights to Prospect
8 Lefferts Gardens, Prospect Heights.

9 This project does not check that box, I thank you
10 for your time I know you will make the right decision.
11 70,000 people have signed their names. Join them and
12 reject this proposal, thank you for your time.

13 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you, questions from the room.

14 Thank you for testifying our next speaker is
15 Ashley Gagany, followed by Elizabeth Otte.

16 ASHLEY GAGANY (TESTIFIER): Hello, I'm Ashley
17 Gagany, coordinator for project Green Reach, Brooklyn
18 Botanic Gardens' outreach program for kindergarten
19 through eighth grade teachers and their classes from
20 Brooklyn title one schools.

21 I'm also an alum of BBG Garden Apprentice
22 program, a program designed to expose teams to urban
23 agriculture in their environment. Thank you for the
24 opportunity to give testimony today about why

1 protecting BBG's growing houses, conservatories, and
2 the programs that use them are so important to
3 nurturing young city-born environmentalists like
4 myself.

5 I became a garden apprentice at BBG in 2009. I
6 never thought that the Garden would become my second
7 home and that 12 years later, I would still be part of
8 the BBG Community. For all these years, i've been
9 commuting from midtown Manhattan, a neighborhood
10 surrounded by enormous skyscrapers, to a green oasis
11 surrounded by flowering plants.

12 Throughout the years, I've given tours to
13 countless groups of schoolchildren, both in person and
14 virtually, sharing the diverse collection in the
15 garden.

16 One Friday morning in February 2019, I was giving
17 a tour in the aquatic house - conservatorium, sorry -
18 and my third grade students were admiring the pitcher
19 plants and orchids.

20 I had a few of my students who had never seen the
21 beautiful orchids, and asked if the orchids were real.
22 I experienced a similar situation during a synchronous
23 session, when a student asked if a plant I was holding
24 was a real barrel cactus. He was amazed that it was -

1 I was actually showing him a real plant that grows in
2 the desert.

3 This helped me realize the tremendous opportunity
4 that is given to city students who might not be
5 exposed to a diverse plant life outside of BBG.

6 The garden changes lives and helps people find
7 their way to careers in the environment, just like it
8 did for me. Without those amazing resources, I would
9 not have been interested in learning more about plants
10 and continuing my environment career at BBG.

11 BBG's education programs were founded on the idea
12 that the most meaningful learning starts with the
13 spark of curiosity students are themselves. Students
14 see themselves as scientists, and I have seen friends
15 from programs become geneticists, psychologists,
16 arborists, teachers, and a powerful advocate for
17 nature, science, and conservatory.

18 The enormous towers will cast shade on the
19 conservatories which we use to inspire that spark of
20 curiosity. The nurseries, which provide healthy plants
21 for our entire garden would suffer. The towers would
22 affect our amazing program's 52-acre natural resource.
23 BBG isn't just an open space in New York City, it is a
24 world renowned institution with collections and

1 programs, both in-person and virtual, that inspire
2 love for plants and foster environmental stewardship.

3 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you Ms. Gagany, questions?
4 Thank you.

5 Our next speaker is Elizabeth Otte followed by
6 Fred Bland.

7 ELIZABETH OTTE (TESTIFIER): Hi my name is Liz
8 Otte, thank you for this opportunity to speak today. I
9 work in the education department at Brooklyn Botanic
10 Garden and I'm here to ask for your support against
11 the 960 Franklin avenue rezoning application, as it
12 would greatly impact our plant collections, which are
13 important to our work with children and youth.

14 I work at the garden as partnership manager with
15 our partner high school the Brooklyn Academy of
16 Science in the Environment, which is located just
17 across the street from the BBG. Through our
18 partnership, BASE students participate in our freshman
19 field studies course, using the garden's plant
20 collections to learn about natural phenomena in
21 ecosystems, right here in Brooklyn.

22 Students learn to grow, harvest, and prepare food
23 in our children's garden through our BASE garden crew
24 after school program. The garden provide our students

1 with an incredible natural laboratory, experiences in
2 and a connection to nature, while building both
3 academic and life skills.

4 This is something that I understand and cherish
5 deeply, as I grew up in Brooklyn gardening in the
6 children's garden from the age of seven and every year
7 after until I was 12. I returned as a children's
8 garden instructor while in college for three years.

9 Gardening at BBG was a formative experience for
10 me that instills a sense of place and belonging, a
11 connection to the land and a passion for teaching and
12 learning, to which I attribute a deep commitment to
13 environmental stewardship and to our communities in
14 Brooklyn. The zoning should not be changed as it would
15 cause permanent damage to the garden's collections,
16 which are vital to this work with our students, thank
17 you.

18 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you Ms. Otte, questions?

19 Our next speaker is Fred Bland to be followed by
20 Julia Bryant.

21 FRED BLAND (TESTIFIER): Good morning, my name is
22 Fred Bland and I have served on the board of the
23 Brooklyn Botanic Garden for nearly 30 years and for 10

1 years as the Chair of the Board. I currently serve as
2 the Chair of the Garden's land use committee.

3 In my professional life, I am managing partner of
4 Beyer Blinder Bell, just 20 floors up in this very
5 building, and have led major projects in this city for
6 nearly 50 years. Including significant historic
7 preservation projects, as well as the design of many
8 contextual new buildings. At BBB we pride ourselves in
9 designing new buildings which fit in with their
10 neighbors, not stick out.

11 For all its 110 year history BBG has been known
12 throughout the world, perhaps uniquely, for its
13 commitment to the diverse and ever-changing community
14 which surrounds it, its collections and programs
15 educate and delight nearly a million visitors a year.

16 Our associated high school, which you've just
17 heard about, BASE the Brooklyn Academy for Science in
18 the Environment, right across Washington avenue, uses
19 our 52 acres and the growing houses as their labs. In
20 the recent past, I led the board as Chair through a
21 series of site refinements, readying this venerable
22 institution for a new century and a focus on
23 environmental sustainability.

1 We work with some of the country's top designers:
2 Michael Van Valkenburgh as well as Marian Weiss and
3 Michael Manfredi, both of whom live in Brooklyn by the
4 way, to create world class designs at BBG.

5 I am simply appalled by the audacity of the
6 current proposal, which would put so much of what BBG
7 has accomplished, much of it with public money, at
8 risk.

9 It would permanently damage the Garden's
10 conservatory complex and ability to propagate plants.
11 The developers own environmental impact statement
12 admits that the garden would likely lose the ability
13 to grow desert plants any longer. Growing and
14 maintaining a diverse collection of plants from around
15 the world allows the garden to fulfill its mission to
16 educate adults and children, and to engage them in a
17 lifelong understanding of the rich and varied world of
18 plants.

19 I believe in a robust and growing city with new
20 housing, affordable for its residents. However, this
21 is simply the wrong project for this site, as it would
22 bring permanent damage to a world-renowned botanic
23 garden, and I urge you to reject it. Thank you.

24 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you, Mr. Bland. Questions?

1 Our next speaker - Oh yes, I am sorry,
2 Commissioner Levin?

3 LEVIN: I don't so much have a question, but an
4 observation to contrast with the powerful testimony of
5 Mr. Bland and so many others here.

6 On read from the executive summary of the
7 environmental impact statement - draft environmental
8 impact statement, where the applicant says this about
9 the Brooklyn Botanic Garden:

10 "The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is an open space
11 resource that is fenced off from the surrounding
12 neighborhood with limited hours of access and requires
13 a fee during most hours for admission. As such,
14 although it is an important public facility, it is not
15 integrated into the urban fabric of the neighborhood,
16 or a defining feature of neighborhood character."

17 I believe the testimony we're hearing today
18 demonstrates that that statement is absolutely wrong
19 and calls into question, much of the other information
20 in the EIS. Thank you.

21 CHAIR LAGO: I'm always in awe of your memory,
22 having read that at the time that it was submitted.
23 But thank you, Commissioner.

1 LEVIN: I also point out that further down
2 acknowledges that they have developed a lower density
3 alternative, apparently, they had this in their back
4 pocket back in February, when this is certified. And
5 it's only now that they begin to tell us about it but
6 don't tell us any information.

7 CHAIR LAGO: Our next speaker will be Julia Brian,
8 to be followed by Carol Reno.

9 JULIA BRYANT (TESTIFIER): My name is Julia
10 Bryant, I'm a member of Movement to Protect the People
11 and FLAC, Flower Lovers Against Corruption.

12 And speaking in regard to this project's lack of
13 Community benefits, this project offers a measly
14 Community benefit, which would be a narrow walkway
15 between the two towers. It would be open to the public
16 between 6am and 11pm. It will be maintained by the
17 property owner, according to the draft restricted
18 declaration. Once the property is converted into
19 private property - that is, a Co-op or condo - the
20 Community benefit would be rescinded forever.

21 Another benefit is supposed to be contained
22 within the draft restricted declaration, which governs
23 the large-scale general development project, is the
24 affordable housing units. In reality, we don't know

1 this for a fact because we've never actually seen the
2 restricted exploration.

3 In regard to the Jackie Robinson playground,
4 which, so to speak, has been overshadowed by this
5 project, the playground would have five hours of
6 shadow during the coldest days of the year, completely
7 destroying the planet life that currently exists and
8 putting the playground into shadow.

9 The irony of this destruction is the developer
10 plans on putting another 5000 people into the
11 community, who would only have this playground to go
12 to. Thank you.

13 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you, Ms. Bryant, questions?

14 Our next speaker will be Carol Reneau, to be
15 followed by Mary Beth Crosby-Carroll.

16 CAROL RENEAU (TESTIFIER): Good morning
17 Commissioners, good morning everyone. I'm Carol Reneau
18 and I come before you as a global history teacher and
19 a co-president of the 300 East 25th street block
20 association in Brooklyn. I'm also a former co-
21 president of Community board 17 land use committee and
22 a long term Brooklyn resident for over 35 years.

23 It bears repeating that the Community will not
24 benefit from the touted affordable housing and that

1 the garden and plant species will be adversely
2 affected. Our Flatbush block association has a great
3 relationship with the Botanic Garden because of the
4 educational resources that they share with us and what
5 we in turn share with our community in Flatbush and
6 even in my native Belize.

7 This takes a sensitive forward thinking sense of
8 or city planners, which I hold in high regard. As city
9 planners, in addition to determining the best use of
10 the city's land and resources, a huge part of your
11 responsibility is to assist with protecting the
12 environment. If you vote on this proposal as it
13 stands, will that be helping or hurting the
14 environment, and will you be assisting with building a
15 more equitable Brooklyn?

16 I strongly oppose the rezoning. I urge our
17 esteemed planners to look at the power of your vote,
18 which will negatively affect the residents, the
19 botanic garden, our environment, and many generations
20 to come. Thank you for your time.

21 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you, questions for Ms. Reneau?

22 Our next speaker will be Mary Beth Crosby-
23 Carroll, to be followed by Janine Nichols.

1 MARY BETH CROSBY-CARROLL (TESTIFIER): Good
2 morning, my name is Mary Beth Crosby-Carroll, and I am
3 an Executive Board Member of Central Brooklyn
4 Independent Democrats, as well as a member of the
5 climate change and environmental justice committee.
6 This morning, I'd like to read and submit testimony
7 from the membership of CBID. The members of CBD
8 strongly urge the City Planning Commission to reject
9 any development proposal that would harm the Brooklyn
10 Botanic Garden. Members of central Brooklyn
11 Independent Democrats voted to support the Brooklyn
12 Botanic Gardens Fight for Sunlight campaign. And we
13 are submitting this testimony to urge the City
14 Planning board to preserve the Brooklyn Botanic
15 Garden, one of Brooklyn's most valuable assets.

16 In terms of the proposed 960 Franklin avenue
17 rezoning proposal, we believe that the studies
18 conducted by BBG's experts demonstrate that the best
19 choice for the Community is clear, to keep the current
20 limited heights zoning laws in place. If the
21 developers are truly interested in creating housing
22 for all price points, there are many available
23 locations where they can do this, but there is only
24 one Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

1 The Brooklyn Botanic Garden provides education
2 for children of all ages and from all neighborhoods.
3 It's a major haven for the pollinators that our food
4 supply depends on but are declining all over the
5 world. It's a research institute for sustainable
6 practices it preserves endangered plant species, and
7 it provides valuable green space to all Brooklyn
8 residents.

9 The zoning laws around the garden were designed
10 explicitly to protect this valuable Brooklyn asset. If
11 960 Franklin avenue were given a variance, it could
12 set a precedent for more tall and massive buildings to
13 be built in the area surrounding the garden. This
14 would endanger valuable portions of the garden, and
15 ultimately could create a situation where the entire
16 garden could be in shadow. To allow the proposed 960
17 Franklin avenue building to be built just 150 feet
18 from the Garden's most important sites, would be an
19 act of vandalism on the valuable cultural and
20 scientific icon, and would be a crime against the
21 families and children of Brooklyn.

22 We hope the City Planning Commission will join
23 the members of CBID and thousands of other
24 Brooklynites in supporting the Brooklyn Botanic

1 Garden's Fight for Sunlight Campaign to prevent
2 critical areas of the garden from being overshadowed
3 by the proposed development at 960 Franklin avenue.

4 The Brooklyn botanic garden is one of the jewels
5 in the crown of New York City and a national treasure
6 and that must be preserved, thank you.

7 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you questions for Ms. Crosby-
8 Carroll?

9 Thank you, our next speaker will be Janine
10 Nichols to be followed by Melissa Siegel.

11 JANINE NICHOLS (TESTIFIER): Good morning, my name
12 is Janine Nichols, I'm the secretary of the Sullivan
13 Ludlum Stoddard neighborhood association in Crown
14 Heights and a proud member of MTOP and FLAC. I'd like
15 to start by pointing out, as has been previously
16 observed that, we haven't ever seen the draft
17 restrictive declaration on this project, despite
18 multiple FOIL requests, legal actions and over and
19 over two years, and a new mandate added to the city
20 charter. No one has seen these slides and yet here we
21 are, I urge the board to take umbrage at the
22 disrespect shown by this developer, for your Jobs.
23 Continuum is seeking a large scale general development
24 designation, which means a manufacturing and

1 industrial designation that conveniently carries no
2 height limits, few parking requirements or pesky
3 building residential requirements regarding sufficient
4 light and air for people in sensitive ecosystems, for
5 instance, the botanic gardens. This has been, thus
6 far, been reserved for shopping centers and light
7 manufacturing, most recently the Nassau Brewery West
8 on Bourbon street, a project now sold for financial
9 reasons, but located in a commercial district, unlike
10 here.

11 Approval of this egregious zoning change would
12 put every community and green space in this city at
13 risk of unprecedented out of context and out of
14 control development. How? By rendering all current
15 zoning restrictions, as well as all state laws
16 intended to ensure sufficient light and air for living
17 things, both toothless and irrelevant. It is an
18 outrageous proposal that should never have made it off
19 the back of the envelope, it must be summarily
20 dismissed and sent back to the drawing board.

21 Let them build market rate apartments as-of-
22 right, as they threaten to. Let their architect
23 familiarize himself with the meaning of the phrase "as
24 of right." The answer to this Commissioner's questions

1 about why they didn't choose a lower height that had
2 the same density is views, views, views.

3 The residents of Crown Heights will be fine with
4 as-of right-market rate development. Just keep their
5 towers off our flowers and off our houses.

6 I would quote Commissioner Levin, from the
7 February 1 review session, she said "I've never seen
8 an environmental impact statement with as stark and
9 scary a description of open space impact here," not
10 only on the botanic gardens, which are really eye-
11 catching, but also on the playground.

12 And you know, the whole purpose of environmental
13 review, I guess it's now being revealed that we as
14 decision makers are supposed to look at what the
15 impacts are, decide what to do about them, and this is
16 the first time I can remember sitting on this
17 Commission. where i'm confronted with information in
18 an EIS that suggests -

19 CHAIR LAGO: Ms. Nichols, the time has expired.

20 NICHOLS: Fires and floods across the world, why
21 are we talking about this?

22 CHAIR LAGO: any questions for Ms. Nichols?

23 Ms. Nichols, there was a question.

1 LEVIN: Actually a point of clarification, you
2 know you credited me with a comment that Commissioner
3 Doueck made about the density earlier, no, that's
4 okay, I'm doing that for you -

5 DOUECK: You get credit for my comment.

6 NICHOLS: Thank you for the clarification

7 LEVIN: and I stand by my earlier comment.

8 CHAIR LAGO: Our next speaker will be Melissa
9 Siegel to be followed by Thomas Chisena.

10 Ms. Siegel had signed up to testify by telephone,
11 so we will wait for a moment to see if we can make the
12 connection.

13 And i'll note that after Thomas Chisena, the next
14 in person testimony will come from Donald Reed.

15 Edwin, would you be able to determine if Ms.
16 Siegel is in the room, not in the room physically, in
17 the remote room?

18 UNKNOWN: We do not see Ms. Siegel in the Room.

19 CHAIR LAGO: Okay, then we have next up Thomas
20 Chisena, who will be testifying remotely as well.
21 We're checking on Mr Chisena, Thank you. He is here,
22 right we'll wait a moment to connect with him.

23 THOMAS CHISENA (TESTIFIER): Thank you for the
24 opportunity to speak, can you hear me?

1 CHAIR LAGO: Yes, welcome.

2 CHISENA: Thank you, I would like to stress the
3 permanence Of this decision. Once those buildings are
4 built, they will never be taken down. That sunlight is
5 gone forever. Gone from the Jackie Robinson
6 playground. Gone from Medgar Evers campus. Gone from
7 the Medgar Evers library. Gone from the Brooklyn
8 Botanic Conservatory. The tropical pavilion will be
9 gone. The desert pavilion will be gone. The aquatic
10 tropical pavilion will be gone. Please, I never
11 thought I would see this day. I'm 77 years old, I have
12 to plead for the survival of the botanic garden,
13 please don't let our generation, be the ones, they
14 say, destroyed our legacy like this. Please keep the
15 current zoning. Thank you.

16 VICE CHAIR KNUCKLES: Thank you. Questions for Mr.
17 Chisena?

18 Thank you, Sir.

19 Our next speaker is Donald Reed, who will be
20 followed by Susan Metz.

21 DONALD REED (TESTIFIER) Thank you, my name is
22 Donald Reed and I'm a long serving trustee of Brooklyn
23 Botanic Garden. I've also had the pleasure of serving
24 as a chair of the board of trustees' Government

1 Affairs Committee. In recent years, as a Brooklynite
2 as well as a trustee, I want to make my opposition to
3 the 960 Franklin rezoning proposal part of the public
4 record. I have for simple reasons. Brooklyn Botanic
5 Garden is a world class botanic garden operating on 52
6 carefully designed and lovingly tended acres in the
7 midst of one of the most densely populated cities in
8 the country.

9 It welcomes nearly 1 million visitors annually,
10 and COVID has reminded us just how important and how
11 much we need our green open spaces for our health and
12 wellbeing, both physical and mental.

13 The garden's conservatory is BBG's beating heart,
14 the location of its most important collections and the
15 site of its year round educational programs. To harm
16 the conservatory is to deal an existential blow to the
17 garden in its entirety.

18 Harming the gardens conservatory complex will do
19 a serious blow to the garden staff, 92 of whom are
20 members of local DC37, the city's large municipal
21 Labor Union. These are full-time, year-round jobs, not
22 contract project based work.

23 Together with private citizens, the city has
24 invested millions of dollars in creating and operating

1 this institution. By reversing the zoning that was put
2 into place to protect the conservatory complex, the
3 city would irreparably damage its own asset.

4 I urge the Members of this this panel to honor
5 the intent of the 1991 zoning that was intended to
6 protect Brooklyn Botanic Gardens conservatories from
7 aggressive overreach by developers in order to
8 maximize their profit. Thank you very much.

9 VICE CHAIR KNUCKLES: Thank you, do we have
10 questions?

11 Thank you.

12 Susan Metz? Maureen O'brien, to be followed by
13 Chantal House. Maureen O'brien?

14 MAUREEN O'BRIEN (TESTIFIER): Good morning New
15 York City planning Commissioners, chair Marissa Lago,
16 vice chair Kenneth Knuckles Esq., and members of the
17 New York City Planning Commission, thank you for this
18 opportunity to testify.

19 My name is Maureen O'brien. I'm the Community
20 manager at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. I work with the
21 people in Brooklyn and community garden block
22 associations, urban farms and tree beds. I'm a
23 longtime resident and homeowner, like mayor Bill de

1 Blasio, I strongly oppose the 960 Franklin avenue
2 development.

3 This project would negatively affect the Brooklyn
4 Botanic Garden and surrounding neighborhood with
5 disorderly growth and inappropriate development, and
6 must be denied, with no modifications.

7 BBG is the people's gardens, a treasured
8 necessary resource that belongs to the people of
9 Brooklyn, New York City, and beyond.

10 The existing zoning protect and preserves
11 sunlight, as many horticultural experts and people
12 from the greening Community have already attested.
13 This would also greatly damage to the Community green
14 plant propagation and nursery area. We grow and donate
15 thousands of units of plant material every year to
16 community gardens, urban farms, mutual aid growers,
17 and block associations all over Brooklyn, including
18 the neighborhoods like Canarsie, Bedford Stuyvesant,
19 Brownsville, and East New York. BBG is part of the
20 heart and soul of the people of Brooklyn.

21 When i'm working in the field outside the garden
22 gates, here's what I hear.

23 "I visited on a class trip, it was amazing. We
24 took plants and pond water back to look at under

1 microscope. We learned where food comes from, that
2 nature connects us all, how plants can heal, how trees
3 make air. We went to BBG and got engaged, got married,
4 went on a first date, took graduation photos, brought
5 children as infants, had family outings, wheeled
6 grandma around the Cranford rose garden. We held a
7 memorial for mom, prayed and mourned the loss of a
8 friend, sought solace during 9/11, visited to stay
9 safe during the pandemic. These milestone memories are
10 from the heart and soul, and did not happen in shadow
11 or darkness.

12 The importance of sunlight for the botanic garden
13 cannot be underestimated, and must not be diminished.
14 As an employee of New York City and a horticultural
15 and community manager, I offer my expert advice that
16 this proposed project must be stopped immediately.
17 Thank you very much.

18 VICE CHAIR KNUCKLES: Thank you. questions for Ms.
19 O'Brien?

20 Thank you. Chantal House, to be followed by Irene
21 Van Slyke.

22 CHANTAL HOUSE (TESTIFIER): Good morning everyone,
23 my name is Chantal House, I am - Yeah, I am just
24 really emotional about all this. I didn't want to be

1 here this morning. I'm a BBG member, I went on the
2 website for tickets, so I saw that this is happening
3 and I just had to be here. I've got a five year old
4 son, called Noah, and a two year old daughter, called
5 Winnie, and Noah just completed two wonderful weeks of
6 summer camp at the a BBG, and every day we have this
7 habit of taking time to ask him, you know, what's your
8 favorite moment of the day? And he said, every night,
9 harvesting my Swiss chard, pulling up the turnips, we
10 cook those every night, and you know, these are kids
11 that we have to force to eat vegetables.

12 Those two weeks those kids ate their veg, and
13 that's part of the magic that BBG brings to families,
14 to individuals, and you know, after the year we've all
15 gone through, I think we've all got clarity on what
16 matters most in life.

17 And it's that, it's relationships, it's
18 connections, being part of nature, and I had no idea
19 what was on the line. Hearing from everyone the
20 testimonies is really brought it to life for me, as a
21 mother, as a Brooklyner now, I'm originally from the
22 UK and we made this place home, and it's because of
23 the garden and it's because of Prospect Park that we
24 feel just a zest for life living here, and to hear

1 what the proponents of the building have said about
2 how the garden is not integral to the fabric of this
3 community is just abhorrent. I can't believe those
4 words were put down because I'm here today to tell you
5 what the garden means to us and families, and I just
6 wanted to be there for Winnie when it's her turn to
7 take the classes and the thought of the light being
8 literally blocked out and preventing this rich place
9 of learning and diversity, from ever like being real.
10 Like it just saddens me so thank you all. I'm going to
11 look you in the eye and tell you that this garden
12 means a lot, and please make the right decisions for
13 our children, thanks so much.

14 VICE CHAIR KNUCKLES: Thank you Ms. House,
15 questions?

16 Thank you.

17 Irene Van Slyke, to be followed by Crystal
18 Hudson.

19 IRENE VAN SLYKE (TESTIFIER): I am Irene Van
20 Slyke, testifying on behalf of the Sierra Club, a
21 national environmental advocacy group with a citywide
22 membership of 15,000 people. We urge the City Planning
23 Commission to reject the zoning map and text
24 amendments, special permits, etc, etc, to allow two

1 new 39 story mixed use buildings that will create an
2 enormous 1,369,000 square feet. It's ironic to stand
3 here to make the case for the importance of sunlight,
4 since the 1960s, the first New York City zoning
5 resolution was passed in protest over this very
6 building, 125 Broadway, because it robbed people of
7 air and sunlight.

8 The Sierra Club joins the opposition to this
9 massive development that overpowers the Botanic
10 Garden's greenhouses and nurseries, robbing it of
11 sunlight for several hours a day. All of us know that
12 sunlight is essential for plants to grow. It's
13 essential for the children who go to the Jackie
14 Robinson playground. That will be shaded most of the
15 day. Sun exposure is needed to synthesize vitamin D
16 that builds bones in children. People who are
17 depressed are often told to spend time outside where
18 there's - there's bright lights or are treated with
19 artificial light, because the sun boosts a chemical in
20 our brain called serotonin. That gives you energy,
21 calms your mind, and keeps you focused. We definitely
22 need more sunlight.

23 The Franklin proposal has been rightly condemned
24 by many layers of stakeholders, first from Flower

1 Lovers Against Corruption, or FLAC, The Movement to
2 Protect the People or MTOP, The community board, city
3 councilwoman Lori Combo, speaker Corey Johnson, the
4 Brooklyn Botanical Garden, Municipal Art Society. Even
5 the City Planning Commissioners and the Mayor. It's
6 odd that this proposal is going forward with so much
7 opposition. Why go through this exercise if you're
8 going to vote it down anyway?

9 Why did the developer not withdraw the proposal?
10 The public needs an answer going forward. Thank you

11 VICE CHAIR KNUCKLES: Thank you. Questions?

12 Crystal Hudson who will be followed by
13 Christopher Gollmar.

14 CRYSTAL HUDSON (TESTIFIER): Good afternoon, my
15 name is Crystal Hudson. I'm a third generation
16 Brooklynite, I'm the founder of Greater Prospect
17 Heights Mutual Aid, and democratic nominee for New
18 York City Council and Brooklyn's 35th district, which
19 is where the 960 Franklin avenue redevelopment project
20 is located.

21 Thank you to chair Lago and the City Planning
22 Commission for the opportunity to speak today.

23 Foremost, this project fails the most basic
24 requirement for an affordable housing project:

1 affordability. This project would come as Crown
2 Heights residents have seen rents jump 39% since 2010,
3 and as more than half of residents report being
4 severely rent burdened, meaning they pay more than 30%
5 of their income on rent. Unfortunately, more residents
6 are likely to become severely rent burdened as the
7 COVID 19 pandemic has destroyed good paying jobs in
8 the retail, food services, and accommodation sectors
9 that previously employed thousands of local residents,
10 even while many of those jobs return as our city
11 reopens.

12 The 960 Franklin project will only exacerbate the
13 effects of gentrification and push rents up higher, as
14 longtime residents in nearby buildings are left to
15 wonder why they can no longer afford to rent the
16 apartment they've lived in for decades. As such as
17 abundantly clear this project is not affordable for
18 our Community. The request to lift the height
19 restrictions for this project threatens to
20 fundamentally change the character of the
21 neighborhood. The proposed towers also pose a threat
22 to one of our borough's biggest cultural institutions,
23 the Brooklyn Botanic Garden: the very garden my mother

1 took me to as a kid and the same one I brought her to
2 when she was living with alzheimer's disease.

3 The garden's programming for folks of all ages,
4 with all health challenges, cannot be understated.
5 Further, the shadows cast by the new development will
6 hamstring the garden's ability to breed new plants and
7 could result in the elimination of half its collection
8 within a decade. In turn, this could result in a loss
9 of millions of dollars in economic activity a year,
10 much of which supports the small businesses around the
11 garden like restaurants and retail stores.

12 The development would also severely hamstring our
13 local infrastructure, everything from our sewage
14 systems to subways, schools, the streets by adding
15 units for a few thousand more residents who risked
16 overloading systems that were never meant to
17 accommodate that many people, something Community
18 Board nine voiced concern about when urging the
19 Council to oppose the passage of the Mandatory
20 Inclusionary Housing guidelines.

21 Above all, this project has been forced through
22 for approval with absolutely no substantial community
23 input. This project could have dire impact on our
24 Community, ranging from the displacement of residents

1 of color to the closure of black and brown owned small
2 businesses that new residents decide against
3 patronizing. Developers need to hold a meaningful
4 dialogue with the communities in which they want to
5 build before any plans are drawn up to understand what
6 we need and want.

7 We need to fundamentally overhaul how rezoning
8 for new developments happens in our city. 960 Franklin
9 could have been a model for Community Center
10 development. Instead, it represents just a
11 continuation of a status quo that favors wealthy
12 developers. That status quo is best epitomized by the
13 developers threat to build an as-of-right development
14 with 518 condominiums and no affordable housing when
15 the city decides against approving this project.
16 They're trying to force our hand to approve a project
17 our Community does not want rather than the bargaining
18 table -

19 CHAIR LAGO: I'm afraid the time is up, we would
20 welcome you submitting written testimony.

21 HUDSON: Great, thank you.

22 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you for coming, Ms. Hudson. Our
23 next speaker is Christopher Gollmar to be followed by
24 Fred Batiste.

1 CHRISTOPHER GOLLMAR (TESTIFIER): My name is Chris
2 Gollmar, I'm a teacher, a resident of Crown Heights,
3 and a frequent visitor to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.
4 I'm here to testify in opposition to the rezoning of
5 960 Franklin. Many others have already spoken in
6 opposition, so I will keep my statements brief.

7 I believe that we need more housing and we need
8 more affordable housing, but this is not it. I ask you
9 to oppose the rezoning of 960 Franklin. I urge you to
10 consider two questions. First, to read the developers
11 charts summarizing rental rates and income limits is
12 to witness the ways in which the term "affordable" has
13 been redefined to serve the interests of property
14 developers.

15 I ask, how can this Commission use its power to
16 create truly affordable housing? A project of this
17 size that seeks to create nearly 800 market rate units
18 is not the answer. As the previous commenters pointed
19 out, this would also further the gentrification of
20 this area.

21 Second, this is a neighborhood that is
22 characterized by many cultural institutions, of which
23 the Brooklyn Botanic Garden is one. I ask you, how
24 would the character of this neighborhood change if one

1 of these institutions, the Garden, can no longer care
2 for its collection because of lack of a crucial
3 resource, sunlight? We need housing, we need housing
4 in this area, but not at this cost, thank you.

5 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you, Mr. Gollmar.

6 Our next speaker is Fred Batiste, to be followed
7 by Gina Quinzani.

8 FRED BATISTE (TESTIFIER): Good morning chair
9 Lago. Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Fred
10 Batiste, I serve as the chair of Community board nine
11 in Brooklyn where this proposed application is sited,
12 and I rise on behalf of my board to express our
13 disapproval of the proposed application. Community
14 Board nine passed a resolution on June 23 with the
15 following recommendations: To disapprove the
16 application for 960 Franklin without modifications or
17 conditions, that the 1991 zoning of this portion of
18 the district be sustained as a previously
19 contemplated, the issue of height restrictions for the
20 protection of BBG. That any proposed modifications to
21 the application after certification should not be
22 considered as part of this unit review, as the Board
23 has not been provided sufficient documentation to

1 substantiate or refute any claims made and revised
2 presentations.

3 And we also recommended that all parties,
4 including the Brooklyn Borough President, the parole
5 board, the Planning Commission, the Mayor and City
6 Council should disapprove without modifications or
7 conditions the resolution, was the result of most of
8 conversations, document request reviews and testimony
9 from the community. I'm confident that testimony
10 provided by other speakers reflects much of what was
11 captured in the board's recommendation, and that
12 recommendation has been provided, along with our
13 record a resolution is provided, along with our
14 recommendation.

15 But today we would like to reiterate that the
16 zoning question has been decided. In the 1991 zoning
17 which set current limits, in part to ensure that
18 impacts to the district would be reasonable, and in
19 line with the character of the neighborhood.

20 This proposal application avoids, understates,
21 or, in some instances, totally misrepresents the
22 impact on the Community, including the effects on
23 local lighting, parking, upward price pressure on
24 existing housing stock, an already strained power

1 grid, and already overcrowded mass transit in the
2 district.

3 The land use review process allows for the
4 consideration of variances to consider the perspective
5 benefits and impacts to the community. Our position,
6 simply put, is that the benefits for the Community as
7 opposed in this application are insufficient, and the
8 potential for harm to the district is too great for
9 this project to proceed. Though this project was filed
10 in April 2020 and approved in February 21, the
11 conversation regarding this project project goes back
12 to 2019. Concerns raised now were present and stated
13 then, and yet the application was refiled,
14 substantially unchanged until alternative proposals
15 were proposed in late February of this year, without
16 any notice. This did not allow for any substantive
17 review at the district level, and deprived the
18 district and the Community board of the ability to
19 conduct the requisite due diligence. In the interest
20 of fairness and transparency, any modifications should
21 not be considered as part of this process. In
22 conclusion, the people have spoken loud and clear, and
23 Community Board Nine calls on the Borough President,
24 the Planning Commission, City Council, and the Mayor

1 to disapprove the application without modifications or
2 conditions. The costs simply outweigh any proposed
3 benefits, thank you.

4 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you very much, Mr. Batiste, I
5 wanted to thank you on behalf of the Commission, the
6 Community boards are such an essential part of the
7 ULURP process. We very much appreciate your service,
8 the service of the board.

9 And I also want to make absolutely clear that the
10 application has not been amended, and so the
11 application that is the subject of this hearing is the
12 application as it was when it was certified, so thank
13 you for clarifying.

14 Other questions? Commissioner Levin?

15 LEVIN: I just want to reinforce what the Chair
16 just said it's really important to us to hear directly
17 from Community Boards, we read your recommendations,
18 but it really helps us when Community Board leaders
19 come to our hearings, so that we can have a
20 conversation about, you know, what's gone down in the
21 Community. I think here that community is made its
22 point of view perfectly clear, but we really
23 appreciate your being here and we welcome you back
24 anytime there's a big application in front of CD 9.

1 CHAIR LAGO: Other questions? Thank you again, Mr
2 Batiste.

3 Our next speaker will be Gina Quinzani, to be
4 followed by Laura Hulbert.

5 GINA QUINZANI (TESTIFIER): So I'm here as a
6 public servant. I'm a retired New York City public
7 school teacher of 26 years, and it was a great honor
8 to be a teacher. I taught for my first 10 years in the
9 midst of three housing projects, so when we could take
10 the kids - once we took three of our third grades, all
11 of us - to visit the botanic garden, not for scheduled
12 lessons, but just so we can be outdoors.

13 The kids weren't sure about rolling down the
14 incline in the cherry lane, and we had to sort of, you
15 know, tell them it was okay to lie in the grass and
16 look at the cherry blossom. So I do this in honor of
17 them.

18 But also, I'm thinking that we are all stewards
19 of the earth, and I think, as we have seen like,
20 really scary climate things, climate changes, that we
21 need to start to reassess our priorities and really
22 realize that the human values need to take some
23 priority, which is having a beautiful space to go. I

1 know that, as well as myself, many people remark that
2 the garden has saved their lives.

3 Perhaps it's a an exaggeration, but boy, you feel
4 that way when you're when you have some issue and you
5 need to go there.

6 I'm also wondering why don't we have more
7 creative leadership or creative real estate
8 development. I just heard this morning in Connecticut,
9 and I can't believe we're less creative than
10 Connecticut, that some stadium was repurposed. Could
11 we not repurpose 960 Franklin? I mean it fits in
12 really nicely.

13 Repurposing is done all over the world, with
14 buildings much, much, much older than ours, but we're
15 not thinking about quality of life. We're slowly
16 turning it into Hong Kong, which, nothing against
17 them, but you know Brooklyn has a different character.

18 Also, years ago, I did read that this area of
19 Brooklyn was considered the real estate opportunity of
20 a lifetime, and they're targeting green and open space
21 now. I think, for many of us who don't have a rooftop
22 garden, that the access to green steak space is really
23 important, so most of us, you go to the garden because
24 it's the people's garden. Thank you.

1 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you, Miss Quinzani. And also
2 for your service as a teacher.

3 Our next speaker will be Laura Hulbert, to be
4 followed by Lashaun Ellis.

5 LAURA HULBERT (TESTIFIER): Hello, good morning.
6 I'm Laura Hulbert, I'm a lifelong Brooklyn resident
7 and i'm here today, like many others, to register my
8 opposition to the zoning change for 960 Franklin.

9 If approved, the development will exacerbate two
10 problems that are having an outsized impact on the
11 lives of New Yorkers: social inequality and climate
12 change.

13 Green lighting a development that's dominated by
14 unaffordable units in a neighborhood of mostly less
15 well off people of color is a dangerous action to
16 take. It will exacerbate the corrosive inequalities
17 that are such a striking fact in present day New York
18 City. Can you think of a more potent metaphor for
19 inequality than a shadow cast on a neighborhood
20 playground?

21 Let's be honest. Do you think we'd even be
22 discussing this proposal if the affected neighborhood
23 were wealthy and predominantly white?

1 Climate change, combating climate change is a
2 goal of all responsible leaders. Interfering with the
3 gardens mission of illuminating the interconnection
4 between people and the natural world clearly goes
5 against this stated goal.

6 How can the botanic garden provide quality
7 educational programming for thousands of school
8 children for years to come, if it can't cultivate the
9 seedlings necessary for that mission. The garden needs
10 seedlings like the school needs books.

11 We have all seen how destructive and even violent
12 hatred of government has become a contagious social
13 fact. This moment is a personal opportunity for you,
14 the members of the City Planning Commission, to
15 demonstrate the essential role that government can
16 play as a counterweight to the appetites of the
17 marketplace. We are counting on you to show that
18 government can act as a protector of life, quite
19 literally speaking. Thank you,

20 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you, Ms. Hulbert. Questions.

21 Our next speaker will be Lashaun Ellis to be
22 followed by Sarah Lazur.

23 LASHAUN ELLIS (TESTIFIER): So I am actually
24 Lashaun Ellis. I want to say good afternoon. I come

1 here as a Community Member of Crown Heights. I've
2 lived there since I was a teenager. That's over 30
3 years. I also come as a member of MTOP and FLAC, I
4 come as a member of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and
5 as a former employee of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden
6 summer programs that service title one students.

7 This project had the developers requesting a
8 large scale general development designation, which is
9 a manufacturing industrial designation. It pertains to
10 large scale commercial and manufacturing projects,
11 such as malls, supermarkets, heavy industry,
12 manufacturing, and businesses. There are no height
13 limits and there's very little parking and a lot of
14 residential restrictions do not apply, such as space
15 between buildings, the requirement for light and air.
16 Before, it was viewed as projects that would be in
17 manufacturing industrial locations where there are no
18 residents.

19 On the other hand, there is a large scale
20 residential development project, which pertains to
21 residential development occurring in residential
22 communities. These have more restrictions to protect
23 residents in neighboring buildings. One such

1 restriction is that the development project may not
2 shadow other buildings and sensitive ecosystems.

3 The irony in this case is that the developers
4 plan on the largest residential development project in
5 Brooklyn, that would overshadow both the Brooklyn
6 Botanic Garden and Jackie Robinson playground, the
7 only playground within a mile radius which serves the
8 Towers and Ebbets Field, which are the largest
9 development complexes in our entire community.

10 Instead of this project falling under the large
11 scale residential development project where 99% of the
12 building space will be apartments, the developers are
13 asking for a manufacturing industrial designation just
14 because he wants to put a commercial designation on
15 the bottom floor, which currently does not exist.

16 This approval will then set precedent of allowing
17 developers all over the city, not only to break the
18 residential designations and put commercial
19 manufacturing buildings within the heart of
20 residential communities, making zoning by designation
21 irrelevant, and at the same time, put at risk
22 residential residents who are protected by state laws
23 when it comes to living conditions in New York City.

1 I would like to state that earlier with that
2 whole boondoggle, the developers were the only people
3 who opposed making an adjustment to the rule. As you
4 can see, I am a rule breaker. And the community was
5 fine with making that exception. You guys wanted to
6 hold fast to your protocol and the rules. And I hope,
7 in this case, you hold fast to the rule that was
8 created in 1991, where these areas remain with the
9 zoning that they currently have.

10 This is R6. Thank you very much.

11 CHAIR LAGO: I am pleased that you were able to
12 have time after all. Questions?

13 Okay, our next speaker will be Sarah Lazur
14 followed by Kelsey Ballance.

15 SARAH LAZUR (TESTIFIER): Yes, hello, my name is
16 Sarah Lazur, and I am a rent stabilized tenant and
17 member of the Crown Heights tenant union and, along
18 with the CHTU, I oppose this rezoning.

19 The tenant movement has been clear: MIH is a
20 giveaway to developers, and this developer's promises,
21 so far, have been dishonest. In multiple presentations
22 and in an astroturf campaign, they have claimed 960
23 Franklin would bring 50% affordable and workforce
24 units.

1 However, crown heights tenants know that the
2 affordable isn't really affordable, and we find the
3 "workforce" label offensive. People who make 120% of
4 AMI are nowhere near the working class the term is
5 meant to evoke, and Brooklyn has plenty of other 120%
6 AMI apartments that go empty, because those people
7 have no trouble finding and getting unsubsidised
8 departments that actually cost less.

9 Lest we forget, the other 50% of this buildings
10 will be completely unaffordable, because MIH is, above
11 all, a perverse incentive. Adding luxury housing to
12 this neighborhood does not make poor residents any
13 less poor, but it does make them more vulnerable to
14 secondary displacement, as described by assembly
15 Member Forest earlier today.

16 The Community, the working class community here,
17 went to the trouble of rezoning in 1991 to protect
18 themselves and the garden. And it's a community that
19 historically was making about 40% AMI. Proponents say
20 the neighborhood incomes are rising, so the
21 affordability levels will be appropriate, but that's
22 not because current residents are making more. It's
23 because the most vulnerable have been systematically
24 displaced in anticipation of this type of rezoning.

1 instead of building for the community, these
2 developers are replacing the community in order to fit
3 their plans.

4 We should also remember that this developer is
5 going to apply for 421A property tax abatement. So
6 essentially, working class New Yorkers are going to be
7 subsidizing the construction of housing for rich
8 people and subsidizing the very developers who are
9 displacing them.

10 Lastly, the community knows that private ULURP
11 applications bring zero infrastructure improvements to
12 help the neighborhood deal with the increased
13 population. No extra trains coming, no extra green
14 space, no extra schools or buses. For all these
15 reasons, I hope the Commission will remember that your
16 mission is not to ensure maximum profitability for
17 developers. Your mission is to plan for the future of
18 this community, and if you approve this application,
19 you are denying this community any future in the place
20 they themselves have made valuable.

21 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you. Questions?

22 Our next speaker will be Kelsey Ballance,
23 followed by River Fields.

1 KELSEY BALLANCE (TESTIFIER): Good morning, good
2 afternoon to the commission, thank you for the
3 opportunity to speak. My name is Kelsey Ballance, and
4 I am asking you to unequivocally oppose this project
5 without modification. You know we've heard so many
6 different reasons why this is a terrible idea, of
7 course there's no infrastructure in the community to
8 deal with this problem.

9 But I want to speak a little bit more to the
10 health benefits which miss Katherine Snyder testified
11 to secondhand earlier. Which is that this quiet space
12 is a sanctuary for myself and other people who suffer
13 from neurodivergent conditions. So four years ago, I
14 suffered a traumatic brain injury. I was unable to
15 work for many years and among many symptoms, I had I
16 was incredibly sensitive to stimuli, such as sound,
17 such as motion in the surrounding environment.

18 I would get excruciating headaches and
19 overwhelming dizziness. If you have difficulty
20 processing stimuli, New York City, is a very, very
21 difficult and physically painful place to live. Even
22 in my own apartment I would be wearing earplugs and
23 over the earplugs, the hearing protecting muffs that
24 people were when they shoot guns. I would still be in

1 pain. One of the few places in the city I could go was
2 the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

3 But that was a place that was always quiet, it
4 was always calm, it was a place that was a refuge,
5 which my apartment on a busy street was not. Which
6 Prospect Park, which as you know, also a public
7 resource, wasn't even always a calm place, so it was a
8 place where I could go and not be in in pain, which
9 was incredibly rare.

10 During that time I also I celebrated my 30th
11 birthday there because it was a place, I knew that
12 would be calm and quiet and I would be able to mark
13 that occasion in that way. I know this sounds like an
14 unusual situation, but you already heard Mish
15 Schneider testify to visitors, such as myself when I
16 testified. Speaking on this point to the borough
17 testimony, someone, a stranger reached out and thanked
18 me for bringing up this point. But there are many
19 people, people with brain injuries, people with inner
20 ear disorders, people who suffer from migraines,
21 people on the autism spectrum who all need a calm and
22 quiet place, and this is one of the few environments
23 that offers that.

1 I also want to add that this is a place
2 throughout the pandemic that has been an unusual
3 resource in terms of employing freelance artists.
4 They've continued to hold - they've hired artists and
5 live streamed art performances during the pandemic. I
6 believe they've donated food to the community.

7 Would the development be doing anything like
8 that? And as you've seen today, I don't need to point
9 out to you, not only to developers want an exception
10 to the zoning they seem to want an exception to the
11 rezoning process in trying to ram through these
12 modifications at the last moment, so please oppose.
13 Thank you.

14 CHAIR LAGO: And thank you very much for sharing
15 such a personal story. Very much appreciated.
16 Questions?

17 Again, thank you.

18 Our next speaker will be River Fields to be
19 followed by Susan Tomlin.

20 RIVER FIELDS (TESTIFIER): Hello everyone, my name
21 is River Fields, I'm president of the 400 Bainbridge
22 Street block association in Bed Stuy Brooklyn. I stand
23 here today in support of BBG's Fight for Sunlight
24 campaign. The proposed rezoning and construction of

1 two colossal towers at 960 Franklin avenue will
2 devastate the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and in turn
3 negatively affect surrounding communities in New York
4 City, and ultimately New York City as a whole. As such
5 it is paramount that this proposal is voted down.

6 It is difficult to overstate the irreparable
7 damage the proposed rezoning development will cause
8 the garden, echoing throughout the borough and the
9 city.

10 As a community leader and urban gardener, I
11 posted numerous community beautification projects
12 where I have directly experienced the impact greening
13 initiatives have on urban areas, including building
14 meaningful relationships, promoting community safety
15 and fostering community pride. The support of the
16 Brooklyn Botanic Gardens through their educational
17 workshops and community programs were vital in gaining
18 participation from residents in our beautification
19 efforts and other Community enrichment initiatives,
20 like our end of summer jazz concert in the center of
21 our block.

22 A relatively new, created about five years ago,
23 but now rooted tradition of my block association is
24 our annual spring and summer beautification project.

1 This event brings together multigenerational,
2 multiracial, and multicultural groups of people to
3 beautify our neighborhood, cultivating meaningful
4 relationships for collectively engaging in purposeful
5 work.

6 The proposed construction of a massive building
7 complex only 150 feet away from BBG will devastate
8 many of their community programs that have been so
9 vital to building and maintaining grassroots efforts,
10 like mine.

11 The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a symbol of
12 environmental stewardship, community collaboration,
13 and lifelong learning. It is in the interest of
14 students, families, friends, gardeners, community
15 leaders, and all lovers of the BBG, that the proposed
16 rezoning of the 960 Franklin development project is
17 disapproved.

18 The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is our garden. It
19 belongs to all of us, it is our responsibility to
20 ensure it not only survives, but thrives. Thank you so
21 much for your time and consideration, I really hope
22 that you make the right decision. Vote down on this
23 proposal, thank you.

24 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you, Mr. Fields. questions?

1 Thank you, our next speaker will be Susan Donlon,
2 to be followed by Ann Gillespie.

3 And I'll note that Ms. Donlon has signed up to
4 testify remotely.

5 SINGER: Susan Donlon is not in the zoom room.

6 CHAIR LAGO: Okay, then before asking miss
7 Gillespie to testify, I want to note that we are
8 getting near the end of the public hearing on this
9 matter, and if you have not registered to speak but
10 have decided during the course of this hearing that
11 you would like to, now would be the time to register.
12 And if you would like to testify remotely, you can
13 find instructions on how to register, whether online
14 or via phone at www.nyc.gov/nycengage. And with that I
15 will welcome Ann Gillespie.

16 Okay, it appears that she is not in the room, so
17 we will next call on Roger Manning, followed by
18 Virginia Shou.

19 SINGER: She's here

20 CHAIR LAGO: Welcome, welcome

21 Thank you, let your hair down, you're ready to
22 testify.

23 ANN GILLESPIE (TESTIFIER): Thank you for the
24 opportunity to speak on this issue today. During

1 quarantine, I've been sheltering in place and working
2 from home in my apartment in Prospect Lefferts
3 Gardens, and two incredible beacons I've had during
4 this time are my proximity to Prospect Park, and the
5 warmth, generosity, and interconnectedness of my
6 neighbors.

7 Both have been lifelines for me. The park offered
8 me an accessible space to step into nature, blanketing
9 fauna, and clear skies. This has been my grounding
10 space and my therapy in a time of true despair. My
11 neighbors and I began to talk almost every day. Both
12 they and I worry about being able to continue to
13 afford to live in New York City, which is our home.

14 The real estate developers Continuum are
15 proposing a predatory and shady deal, blocking out the
16 sky with luxury units and paying for it 100% through
17 federal, state, and local tax incentives. They argue
18 that they will make this neighborhood more affordable,
19 but that simply makes no sense, it is a lie. They want
20 us to believe that affordability is something we can
21 have if we break our community agreement make our air
22 less clean, overburden our schools, sewers and
23 streets.

1 I see people lining up on New York avenue for the
2 food bank and it's a long line. I see how fast food
3 goes into the community fridge and comes right back
4 out on Nostrand avenue. My neighborhood isn't
5 suffering from a lack of luxury apartments. We're
6 suffering from a lack of humanity, lack of
7 opportunities, a lack of affordability.

8 It's a shady deal that hurts our most vulnerable
9 neighbors. Please vote to stop the shady deal
10 permanently.

11 I want to just add one thing off script, when I
12 was registering, I was listening to the testimony of
13 those who are speaking in favor of this development
14 and I noticed how often they repeated the word
15 affordability and affordable. That was their anchoring
16 phrase, that's the idea they wanted you to take away
17 from what they have to say.

18 I just, in hearing that, was reminded of that
19 quote from the Princess Bride: "You use that word a
20 lot, I don't think you know what that word means."
21 Thank you.

22 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you, Ms. Gillespie, questions?
23 No, you're off the hook.

1 Our next speaker will be Roger Manning, followed
2 by Virginia Shou.

3 Mr. Manning signed up in person.

4 If Virginia Shou is here she's welcome to come
5 forward and then, if Mr. Manning returns -

6 TESTIFIER: Ms. Shou needed to leave, but she
7 submitted written testimony and thanks the Commission.

8 CHAIR LAGO: Oh great. Thank you, thanks for
9 letting us know about that.

10 Okay, then we will move on to Michael Braudy
11 followed by Zenobia McNally, Michael Braudy is signed
12 up to testify remotely.

13 MICHAEL BRAUDY (TESTIFIER): Can you hear me, can
14 you see me as well, can you hear me i'm just curious.

15 CHAIR LAGO: At this point, we're hearing you, and
16 it may be that as you're testifying, your face may pop
17 up on the screen, yes, there you are in person on the
18 screen.

19 BRAUDY: Thank you for the opportunity to talk,
20 I've been in the heights for 40 years. The gardens has
21 been the most important place in my life here in terms
22 of an oasis. I played violin on one of the
23 installations, I taught computer science at pace
24 university, while I was here, and I was there last

1 night with a friend from Pittsburgh, who was a member
2 who will join again. He is very much opposed to this,
3 I, I agree with everything that's been said so I'm
4 going to speak to conscience. I think that's my role
5 and i'm going to use metaphor, maybe as a violinist, a
6 computer scientist.

7 See, I want to keep on time so I know pretty much
8 what I want to say to you. Just to start off, I just
9 want to say it's clearly this is clearly a project of
10 greed and denial, I mean there's no - there doesn't
11 seem to be any doubt about it.

12 But I want to say something. My friend Stuart
13 Scott died last week of cancer. He had started Facing
14 Future, he ended with an interview with Noam Chomsky.
15 He brought Greta Thunberg to the Poland conference, he
16 brought her out. She was really talking against
17 climate denial, denial of polluting the environment.

18 And I really think that that's what's happening
19 here, we're really looking at a developer, and I'm
20 going to speak to you directly, developer, but
21 obliquely, I don't think you're going to change your
22 mind.

23 What legacy are you looking to give to your
24 children, or your descendants, or to humanity, by just

1 going for money, instead of the environment, instead
2 of this lovely gardens? What legacy do you want to
3 leave? But I'm speaking to the Council now, to devote
4 with your conscience really.

5 Because the garden, it's clear what the garden
6 means to all of us, and listening to the environmental
7 statements, I don't need to be involved in the facts
8 to really hear clearly. What I remember really dearly
9 was in Al Gore's movie the Inconvenient Truth, he used
10 a metaphor at the end of the movie.

11 He said, is it money, or do we want to save the
12 environment, we want to stop coal, work towards
13 environmental change. And he held a balance in his
14 hand and scales, with the Earth in one hand and
15 dollars in the other, and he looked up and said, which
16 will it be?

17 Hard decision.

18 So I'm going to leave you with that and, perhaps,
19 if I can use the last 28 seconds, with about 15
20 minutes of silence to just let the conscious elements
21 sink in, and I'm directing this to the Council
22 members. I work with you as a consultant, I really
23 think highly of you, and I am going to leave that with
24 you for a moment.

1 (SILENCE)

2 BRAUDY: Thank you.

3 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you for using your time.

4 Questions for Mr. Braudy?

5 Okay, thank you again for testifying.

6 BRAUDY: what's the question next, oh no question
7 okay.

8 CHAIR LAGO: Our next speaker will be Zenobia
9 McNally.

10 ZENOBIA MCNALLY (TESTIFIER): Good afternoon. I'm
11 Zenobia McNally, Brooklyn resident, community
12 activist, environmentalist, Flatbush farmer.

13 The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a beacon of light
14 that must not be overshadowed, and although it's
15 located in Brooklyn, BBG has worldwide reach. Look at
16 some of the numbers of those who support BBG.

17 You'll see this.

18 (PRESENTS POSTER)

19 When you look at the annual visitors, BBG,
20 800,000 annual visitors. Website, 1,800,000. BBG
21 members, 20,000. BBG Community program participants,
22 50,000. Children and BBG programs, 250,000. The Fight
23 for Sunlight community petitioners 56,000, and that
24 number is higher now. The FLAC supportive signatures,

1 15,000. MTOP community protectors, 12 or more. CB9
2 Community supporters, 500 signed on.

3 New York City supporters, some here on the
4 Commission. Borough President, still a question mark.
5 I really see, because numbers are important, we all
6 work with numbers, okay, but let's look and see what
7 we really talking about here.

8 I love Brooklyn, okay, I lived there for over 50
9 years and I know why anyone everyone would want to
10 live in Brooklyn. However, there is a valid reason why
11 the height restriction of 1991 was put in place, yes,
12 as many speakers spoke before, to protect the plants.
13 But it's about all biodiversity, the plants, the air,
14 the animals with wings, those who crawl, those who
15 swim in the streams, those with four legs and, yes,
16 those with two. The ecosystem must be maintained for
17 the health of all living things.

18 We cannot dangle the carrot of good jobs, which
19 would last for what, three years, four years, five
20 years, maybe eight or 10? But the negative
21 repercussions could be 50 years, 75 years, 100 years,
22 no. Forever. This project cannot, should not, move
23 forward. Let's keep the current 1991 zoning as is, and
24 please, never let us create a situation like this,

1 where we all have to come out to protect BBG. Brooklyn
2 Botanic Garden is a lifeline for all of us, so I urge
3 all of you, all of you, to keep sunlight for all of
4 us. Thank you and do the right thing.

5 CHAIR LAGO: Thank you Ms. McNally, if you want to
6 take a photograph of your numbers and then submit
7 them, enter them into the record. Thank you.
8 Questions?

9 Okay, Ms. McNally, is the last person who has
10 signed up to speak. I'm going to again call the names
11 of the three people who had signed up but didn't
12 testify to check if they were available at this point.
13 Melissa Siegel, Susan Donlon, and Roger Manning?

14 Okay, at this point, I will ask if there is
15 anyone in the room, who has not yet spoken, but would
16 now like to sign up to speak, please come forward at
17 this time.

18 Not seeing any. I will note that the record on
19 the application will remain open through Monday August
20 9 2021 to receive written comments on the draft
21 environmental impact statement.

22 And before closing this public hearing, I want to
23 thank the members of the public, for your testimony

1 and for being here throughout dependency of the
2 hearing. We so benefit from public input, thank you.

3 The public hearing is closed.

4 (APPLAUSE)

5 If I could ask that we take a short break and
6 return at one o'clock to commence the next hearing.

7 Thank you.

8

9