

West Harlem Rezoning FEIS

FOREWORD

This document is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the West Harlem Rezoning project (the Proposed Action). Acting on behalf of the City Planning Commission (CPC), which is the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) lead agency, the New York City Department of City Planning (DCP) determined the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed project to be complete and issued a Notice of Completion for the DEIS on May 4, 2012. Public Notice of completion of the DEIS and a public hearing on the DEIS was published in the *City Record* on June 25, 2012, and in the *New York Post* on June 27, 2012. CPC held a public hearing on the DEIS in Spector Hall at 22 Reade Street in Manhattan, on July 25, 2012. Comments were accepted at that hearing and throughout the public comment period, which remained open until August 6, 2012.

This FEIS addresses all substantive comments made on the DEIS during the DEIS public hearing and subsequent DEIS comment period. Those comments are summarized and responded to in Chapter 23, “Response to Comments.” Changes to the text and graphics from the DEIS were made in this FEIS, as necessary, in response to these comments. In addition, this FEIS also reflects all substantive changes to technical analyses resulting from agency reviews, and material changes in conditions since issuance of the DEIS.

Changes between the DEIS and this FEIS include:

- Revisions to various chapters and related Appendices, as necessary, to reflect modification of the reasonable worst case development scenario (RWCDS). The RWCDS was modified to eliminate two sites previously identified in the DEIS as projected development sites 51 and 52, and to reflect updated information regarding existing ground floor use on Site 55. All technical analyses and corresponding text have been updated accordingly in the FEIS.
- Revisions to various chapters, as necessary, in response to agency reviews or public comments made on the DEIS.
- Revisions to various chapters and related Appendices, as necessary, to reflect new or more accurate information identified subsequent to the issuance of the DEIS.
- Updated conclusions in Chapter 18, “Mitigation,” in the areas of shadows, and historic and cultural resources, to reflect that no mitigation measures were identified between the DEIS and FEIS for the significant adverse shadows impact on St. Mary’s Protestant Episcopal Church. All other references to this impact have also been updated throughout the FEIS document, e.g., in Chapter 6, “Shadows,” Chapter 7, “Historic and Cultural Resources,” and Chapter 20, “Unavoidable Adverse Impacts.”
- Chapter 23, “Responses to Comments,” which is entirely new to the document.
- Appendix G, “Written Comments Received on the DEIS,” which is entirely new to the document.

Except where indicated, all text changes since publication of the DEIS are marked by underlining in this FEIS. No underlining is used for the Foreword or Chapter 23, “Response to Comments on the DEIS,” both of which are entirely new.