



October 19, 2023

Commissioner Dan Garodnick  
City Planning Commission Chair and Department of City Planning Director  
New York City Department of City Planning  
120 Broadway, 3rd Floor  
New York, NY 10271

Dear Commissioner Garodnick:

The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the Department of City Planning's proposed *City of Yes for Economic Opportunity* initiative. Our organization is the convener, voice and advocate of the 120,000+ businesses across the borough of Manhattan, which is New York's economic center. We're focused on advancing the economic vitality of our region by building a strong and thriving climate for the broad business community, including small businesses, startups and large companies.

New York needs clear and modern zoning regulations that reflect our city's needs. Our commercial corridors are the lifeblood of our communities, and this proposal will not only help to reduce retail vacancies but will support entrepreneurship and ensure a wider range of businesses open, which is vital for the city's continued economic growth.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of mixed-use neighborhoods that can adapt in the face of changing conditions, particularly in areas like midtown Manhattan. Getting there requires flexibility in our zoning regulations. Businesses large and small are re-evaluating how they use space, where to locate, and how they function in the face of changing consumer preferences and economic conditions. By allowing businesses that cater to the specific demands of the community, zoning for economic opportunity will be promoting a more community-centric approach to zoning. Thank you for your consideration of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce's support and please let me know if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Walker'.

Jessica Walker  
President & CEO