

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 Manhattan

May 8, 2008

Evan Mason
Landmark West!
45 West 67th Street
New York, NY 10023

To Whom it May Concern:

The Green Committee of Community Board 7 (MCB7) strongly endorses and urges your support for the study proposed by Landmark West! of the environmental benefits of the vegetation to be found in the rear yards behind the rows of historic brownstones on the Upper West Side.

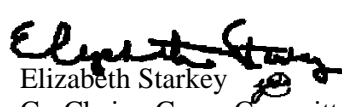
The project would be done in conjunction with and with the assistance of *NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies* and *The CUNY Institute for Sustainable Cities*. Its overall purpose is to scientifically measure the environmental benefits derived from the vegetation, the trees and plantings, which are to be found in these "city back yards" and to understand the effect this vegetation has on such environmental factors as ambient air temperature, air pollution removal and stormwater run-off. These rear yard open spaces are in danger of being lost before the city without their owners fully understanding their potential benefit to the environment.

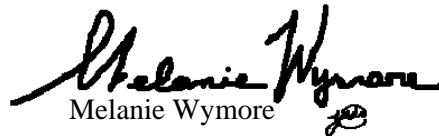
Considering that the targeted rear yards Landmark West! Proposes to canvas amount to more than 100 acres of land, or the equivalent of! 4% of the area of Central Park, we believe this will be a significant study. In addition, the project will complement existing analyses of public open spaces city-wide and Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC 2030 initiative. Hopefully it will eventually serve as a foundation for the formulation of a sustainable public policy with regard to these privately owned open spaces.

We also applaud the idea of a handbook to be developed by Landmark West!, which will present the collected scientific data for future use by residents and business owners and anyone who is interested in enhancing the environmental benefits of these rear yards, not only on the Upper West Side but throughout the brownstone neighborhoods of the entire city.

We urge you to support the project to the fullest extent possible.

Kind regards,


Elizabeth Starkey
Co-Chairs, Green Committee
Community Board 7


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