



January 17, 2003

Michael Bloomberg
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

We are writing to express our opposition to a proposal for a 14-story, 157-foot tower (not including rooftop mechanicals) on West 70th Street between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue. This proposal, which has been submitted to the New York Landmarks Preservation Commission, threatens the widespread low-rise midblock character of the Upper West Side and may pave the way for other architecturally incompatible projects.

We support the existing zoning for the Upper West Side Historic District, which is designed to protect the low-rise character of neighborhood midblocks, and oppose all present and future applications for "block-busting" building developments.

We are joined in our opposition to the West 70th Street project by Manhattan Community Board #7, the Municipal Art Society, Historic Districts Council, Landmark West! and Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts, as well as a growing list of individuals and local and citywide groups. In addition, we are grateful for the leadership and support of elected officials, including Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields, New York State Senators Thomas Duane and Eric Schneiderman, and New York State Assemblymembers Richard Gottfried and Scott Stringer, all of whom oppose this project because it violates the zoning and undermines the character of the historic district.

We are urging you to do everything in your power to help preserve and protect our community by opposing this ill-conceived project and all other projects that threaten to disrupt our community's character by waiving existing zoning.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marlene Lee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing "M" and "L".

Marlene Lee
Board Member
West 102nd and 103rd Streets Block Association Board