

#VotersAgainstSupertalls

June 22, 2017

Mayor Bill de Blasio
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

As a New Yorker, and a voter, I write to request your immediate assistance to **stop the sprawl of gigantic, Midtown-scale buildings** into residential neighborhoods.

Towers of extraordinary height are transforming our city's skyline, changing the scale of our streets, straining infrastructure, raising serious questions about safety, challenging sustainability, and casting shadows. The lengthening, permanent shade over the southern part of Central Park—New York's most significant, and symbolic, public open space—is a warning sign of damaging development trends, policies, and problems that undermine your vision of a more equitable city.

“Supertall” towers are marching into traditional residential communities like the Upper West Side and Upper East Side. Sadly, plans for wildly out-of-scale buildings—proposed and, in some cases, inappropriately approved “as of right”—are already in motion. **200 Amsterdam Avenue** (the 668' tower proposed for West 69th Street) and **Sutton Place** (the 850' tower proposed for East 58th Street) are just two blatant examples. **Next stop, Harlem.** These “totems of inequity” will surround Central Park on all sides.

This is not a future New Yorkers want to see. **Our right to light, air, and other quality-of-life necessities ought to matter more than so-called “development rights”.**

At the base of this significant threat is developers' ability to exploit and pervert the current zoning laws. In particular, developers' manipulations of laws concerning zoning lot mergers, transfer of development rights, and mechanicals have yielded unpredictable, often outrageous results.

As an immediate starting point, I support the following actions:

- A **moratorium** on all buildings that seek to use development rights transferred from other sites without public review, pending...
- Statutory **limits on the “as of right” accumulation** of development rights on any given site
- Zoning amendments to **include mechanicals, voids, and floor-to-ceiling heights over 10 feet in floor-area calculations**
- An **audit of Department of Buildings** zoning plan review and enforcement procedures

We look to you as Mayor for leadership to curb excessive development that threatens residents, overwhelms infrastructure, destroys community character, and violates the rights of all but the most wealthy.

Sincerely,

Name

Neighborhood