

David Owens on: 200 Amsterdam Avenue.

Am I opposed to putting a 51 story building at 200 Amsterdam Avenue? Of course I am. Who wouldn't be – other than the developer?

For one thing, aesthetically it doesn't fit. Developments need to complement the neighborhood. The Upper West Side isn't a dartboard on which developers can throw their latest creation regardless of the look of it and other effects on our community.

Where is the impact analysis?! 51 stories. 400,000 square feet. 112 luxury residences. Will it be profitable for the developer? Almost certainly, but *at whose expense?* There's its affect on the aesthetics of the neighborhood that I just mentioned. But, equally important, what about its impact on traffic and on our local economy? Where are the independent studies that enable city planners and residents of my district to understand the real costs of this development on our families and established businesses?

The Upper West Side is our home. Do you want a city government that approves a 51 story building next door, figuratively and literally, to your house? Without your being involved in that decision from start to finish?!

How did we get to this point in the first place? There needs to be more transparency throughout the approval process and much, much more community involvement, beginning early-on, for major projects. How did this project get this far in the first place?