

**I am the only candidate who personally helped file the zoning challenge for 200 Amsterdam. Although advocates like myself and Olive Freud appreciate other candidates coming on board, there is no candidate who even comes close to being as serious about zoning reform and preserving your quality of life as I do. It is my central campaign issue.**

**Taken directly from my policy platform verbatim:**

### **Land-Use, Preservation and Zoning**

**As Council Member, I will support your quality of life by supporting preservation, protecting every inch of our parks, and make sure buildings are contextual with the neighborhood, not out-of-scale like the mega-tower at 200 Amsterdam Avenue.**

- Base decisions about land-use, preservation and zoning upon what is best for the neighborhood, not upon political contributions and lobbying from developers.
- Protect residents, landmarks, historic districts, parks, libraries, hospitals, views, light, and air, especially against over development and the privatization of public assets.
- Expand environmental assessment review and scoping requirements especially for taller buildings; include bulkheads, voids, and secondary displacement effects.
- Create sanctions for developers, architects, and lawyers, who break zoning or construction rules.
- Change zoning rules to ensure that buildings are built contextually, and to a human scale, with active street uses that contribute to a lively city.
- Promote responsible development by requiring early electronic distribution of full documentation, and facilitating neighborhood input and debate.

Comments:

The attempt to build a Mega-Tower at 200 Amsterdam Avenue, and the amassing of air rights in order to do the same on West 66th Street are two projects that that are perfect examples for everything that is broken with our current system of laws, rules, regulations, and oversight regarding zoning.

The Real Estate Syndicate is eager to lay waste to our quality of life with no regard whatsoever for our neighborhood's character. One only needs to look at the skyline on the south end of Central Park to see the physical representation of how the rich and powerful have harmed everyday people in order to enrich themselves.

Have we reached the point of inequity where only the rich are entitled to sunlight? Unfortunately, our current elected officials are actively enabling the kind of overdevelopment that will lay waste to any semblance of what makes the upper West Side so special.

Large donations to politicians in order to enable overdevelopment is only a small part of what should outrage you. Look at the mega-towers casting mile long shadows across Central Park. Did you know legislation was passed in order to give large property tax giveaways for units costing tens of millions of dollars that are largely owned by non-residents who don't even pay NYC income tax? In addition to robbing our cherished and shared democratic space of sunlight, these buildings hardly at all contribute to our economy, and certainly not our tax base. That is how projects like 200 Amsterdam Avenue come to our doorstep: mountains of soft corruption. And it begins long before someone announces a bid for city council.

The fact is, retail landlords, developers, and unions with a recent history of corruption already poured money into this election. That's not an accusation, that's a fact. Unfortunately, that is a reality of New York City politics we have to change immediately.

In order to pass zoning reform (my central campaign issue,) I will push for a 500ft hard cap on all new buildings district-wide, as well as finally taking a stand for no new shadows in public parks.

As the only serious reformer in the current City Council field, I know that real and meaningful zoning reform only comes with an aggressive and ambitious "ask." If we want the rules and laws to comport with the spirit in which they were written, we need specifics about the when and how. My push for zoning reform begins on day 1 and will never end until our quality of life is secure for generations to come.