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May 30, 2017

Mr. Robert Dobruskin
AICP, Director
120 Broadway
New York, NY 10271

rdobrus@planning.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Dobruskin:

Re: Proposed Development Block 675-East

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of Save Chelsea. Save Chelsea is a broad coalition of organizations and individuals concerned with preserving the integrity of the Chelsea Historic District and the entire Chelsea neighborhood.

I attended the recent scoping session regarding the development of Block 675-East and wanted to take the opportunity to provide commentary on the scope of the EIS as it pertains to the issues we believe must be addressed.

The plans call for a transfer of air rights from the Hudson River Park permitting site A to be as tall as 62 stories and site B, 32 stories. While not as tall as the adjacent towering Hudson Yards complex, these are imposing structures, significantly taller than anything else in Chelsea. Save Chelsea wants to be sure that the shadows cast by such enormously tall buildings in West Chelsea will be measured by a shadows study specialist such as Michael Kwartler or WXY Architects. We wish to be assured that the significant increase in population is also considered, and that the huge amounts of traffic and accompanying strain on infrastructure and open space will be addressed.

We realize that in exchange for the zoning changes being granted for development, the community will benefit with at least 25% of residential units allocated to affordable housing as well as other amenities. But we also appreciate that the benefits that the developers are receiving, enable them to provide these community assets because the zoning changes they are receiving are so enormously valuable. As this process proceeds, we want to be sure that the benefits received by the public and the Chelsea community have commensurate value and that any impacts by the massive upzoning being proposed, if approved, is adequately mitigated.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment and input.

Respectfully,

Sally Greenspan
on behalf of the Board of Directors of Save Chelsea

cc: Councilman Corey Johnson
MBP Gale Brewer
The Honorable Brad Hoylman
The Honorable Dick Gotfried
Lee Compton, CB4