

Subject of the Application: Haven Green Senior Affordable Housing Development in Little Italy  
Calendar No.: Public Hearing on 03/13/2019  
Borough: Manhattan  
ULURP No.: C190184 HAM – Haven Green  
CD No.: 2  
Position: In Favor

Testimony to the City Planning Commission  
City Planning Commission  
120 Broadway, Concourse Level  
New York, NY

March 5, 2019

We have been residents of CB2 for 30 /40 years respectively. We live around the corner from the proposed Haven Green site. Kathleen and Steve are both community gardeners in the nearby Sara Roosevelt Park. Kathleen is the President of its Coalition, whose work is primarily to help community members become stewards of their own nearby park spaces. Steve is a successful musician and composer who has toured and recorded with David Bowie, among other well-known musicians.

We are heartily in support of Haven Green's senior affordable housing and shared open space project. We welcome new diverse low-income neighbors and welcome accessible housing for elders who can no longer navigate stairs or are in need of services to remain in the community they built. The inclusion of Habitat for Humanity would help many in the wider community who are also struggling with the affordable housing crisis. SAGE would provide services needed for the elders who would live in the building, but also to send a clear message of welcome to all LGBTQ residents in the broader community. The inclusion of 30% formerly homeless elders in this site is both a common sense and compassionate necessity in these times. One block away people sleep on the street if a reminder is needed.

We also request that the open space become permanent mapped parkland under the jurisdiction of the Parks Department and to be open all day and all year round.

Kathleen's OpEd on displacement of low-income Italian, Dominican and Puerto Rican neighbors. Statistics reflect we are now a well off, 72% white neighborhood is attached.

Despite the chilling reactions vocalized when any support for this project was voiced, many of us know that in these times we must offer shared resources, not empty phrases.

We can make decisions that allow the words of Mr. Rogers to come true: "I've always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you, I've always wanted a neighbor just like you".

With thanks,

Yours,

Kathleen Webster & Steve Elson  
246 Bowery NYYN 10012