

# FRIENDS OF ROOSEVELT PARK, INC.

The Honorable Bill de Blasio

Mayor of New York

City Hall

NYC 10007

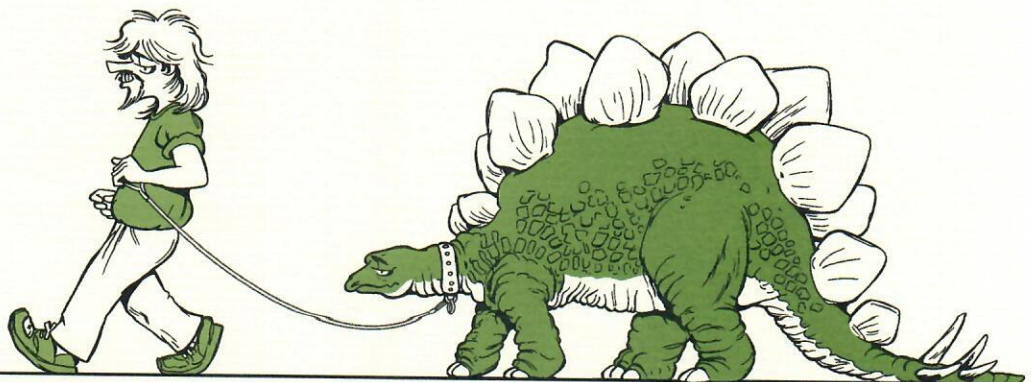
May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## Shadows in Greenacre Park on East 51<sup>st</sup> Street from Midtown East Rezoning

Dear Mr. Mayor:

As a lifetime park lover, I founded the **Riverside Park Fund** in 1986, a private entity that now puts \$2 million per year into that 320 acre City Park. And in 1989 I co-founded **Friends of Roosevelt Park**, focused on preserving the 10 acre green space and City Park surrounding the American Museum of Natural History. We fund 40% of that Park's operating budget, with total contributions to-date exceeding \$1.5 million. **Neighbors contribute to these two Parks because they value light, space, and softscape contrasting with the surrounding hardscape of buildings, roads, and street traffic.**

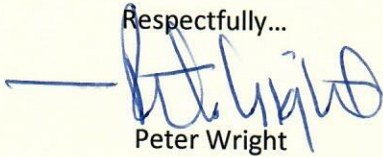
Midtown East Rezoning would increase building height and shadows cast on Greenacre Park and other small green spaces in a zoning district with a tiny number of parks. It would double the hours of shadows in this park and threaten existing vegetation. The stated zoning goal is to raise \$2 billion for infrastructure from developers, a Devil's Bargain considering that the most needed infrastructure is a second Midtown subway line, probably an extension of the recently-opened Second Avenue Subway. Since the cost of that project ultimately ballooned to an unaffordable \$4 billion, that doesn't seem likely. Even with existing zoning, the Lexington Avenue Subway is already at capacity. Midtown sidewalks are already jammed...and adjacent traffic, punctuated by endless car horns and sirens, is already at capacity. Adding residential and commercial space can only worsen a bad situation.



Back in 1910 NY State passed the "Tenement Housing Act" to insure air, sunlight, and space for new construction to upgrade the despicable housing conditions on the Lower East Side. In some ways, Midtown East Zoning represents a 21<sup>st</sup> Century return to the crowded, sunless conditions in existence before that enlightened (forgive the pun !) legislation.

**At a minimum, I urge you to consider zoning alterations surrounding Greenacre Park and other Midtown vest pocket parks to minimize the shadows that will visibly reduce visitor enjoyment in these small, but valuable spaces.**

Respectfully...

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Wright", with a horizontal line extending to the left.

Peter Wright

President

[Pwright77@aol.com](mailto:Pwright77@aol.com)

cc: Honorable Daniel Garodnick

Honorable Gale Brewer