

ROBERT J. KAFIN
340 East 72nd St.
New York, NY 10021

May 25, 2017

Hon. Bill de Blasio
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Greenacre Park and Rezoning

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

I write as a resident of our City who, in a large variety of ways, has worked for over 50 years to enhance parks and open spaces and otherwise promote safe and healthy conditions here.

In our densely built and populated environment, small bits of green and public spaces for respite are few, but very important to the quality of an urban dweller or visitor's life. These are often only found in vest-pocket parks.

One particular gem and a very rare piece of green space in its neighborhood is Greenacre Park on East 51st Street in Manhattan. Thus, I am very concerned that insufficient attention has been paid to protecting the light and air currently enjoyed by this site from over-sized buildings that could be built under the Midtown East Rezoning plan.

I understand the need to revise midtown zoning to improve its competitiveness with other central business areas. However, whatever the urgency to do this, it should not employ poor analysis, nor should it undervalue the contribution Greenacre Park makes to its neighborhood, including to the types of offices and other businesses the rezoning seeks to attract and retain.

What I am seeing is a lack of creativity and resourcefulness – qualities New Yorkers are so well known for – in crafting the rezoning plan to preserve the scarce sunlight Greenacre Park needs to remain viable. Please use the best of New York's planning and design skills to avoid an unnecessary bit of vandalism. Let's get the rezoning right both for economic development and greenspace preservation. Oppose the present plan until it is modified to account for the retention of Greenacre Park's vegetation and landscaping.

Very truly yours,

Robert Kafin

cc: Borough President Brewer
Council Member Garodnick.
