

**WEST SIDE COMMUNITY GARDEN
POST OFFICE BOX 20301, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10025**

Dear Mayor de Blasio

May 21, 2017

I am writing to you to ensure that the Midtown East Rezoning does not adversely affect Greenacre Park on East 51st Street by creating a **“Darkened Park.”**

For many years I worked nearby at 800 Third Avenue, and visited Greenacre Park two or three times a week to meet people, eat lunch, and sit outside during the work day. This beautifully designed little outdoor space was actually one of the inspirations for my support and work at West Side Community Garden, a not-for-profit organization which owns and operates the West Side Community Garden public flower park on West 89th st. between Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues.

Like the Greenacre Park on East 51st Street we are open every day to the public and I know how important these small green areas, sprinkled through out the “street grid” of Manhattan, are to the neighborhood. People on lunch hour, seniors who live nearby, mothers with infants, and out of town visitors rely on these small outdoor green spaces as a free place to sit outside, relax and enjoy the sun throughout the year.

- Creating a **“Darkened Park”** with too many nearby tall buildings in the rezoning area under consideration would forever diminish this tiny green space
- Even now, tall buildings shade the Greenacre Park two or three hours a day. Rezoning to allow larger taller buildings would reduce the amount of sun received daily even more, and threaten to kill vegetation.
- According to New Yorkers For Parks, City Council District 4 has only two percent dedicated parkland in its area, – versus a citywide council district average of 19 percent.
- The Municipal Art Society has said that the City “cannot afford to allow development under the East Midtown proposal to cast such an important resource as Greenacre Park in additional shadow “
- The Greenacre Foundation, founded by Abby Rockefeller Mauzé, developed maintains Greenacre Park , which has has won awards for its concept and design from such organizations as The Parks Council of New York City, The New York Society of Architects, and The New York State Association of Architects.

Please implement a modified rezoning plan- keep this free space, enjoyed by so many,
Beautiful in the Sun !

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Daniel R. Garodnick, New York City Council Member