

## FIGHT FOR LIGHT CAMPAIGN UPDATE

August 9, 2017

Today, we expect the City Council to pass the Greater Midtown East Rezoning legislation. The Mayor will be signing the legislation shortly thereafter. Unfortunately, what will be missing from the new law is any protection of Greenacre Park. While the City recognizes the “gem” that the Park is to the community, they chose to ignore resolutions from Community Board 6 and the Manhattan Borough Board to protect the Park. Additional supportive statements to protect the Park by Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and Councilman Daniel Garodnick also fell on deaf ears at City Hall.

Nevertheless, we thank all of our supporters that lit up social media, sent letters, and sent emails. The City at least acknowledged the need to discuss future developments’ impact on Greenacre Park – especially in terms of the amount sunlight on the Park. The Deputy Mayor and City Council, in a side agreement, promised to do the following:

- 1) The Department of City Planning (DCP) will send Greenacre Foundation filed application for any zoning actions pursuant the East Midtown rezoning at the same time it is sent to the Community Board.
- 2) DCP will inform any such applicant to discuss its development plans with Greenacre Foundation, and;
- 3) DCP commits again to meet with Greenacre Foundation to discuss potential shadow impacts from both within and outside the rezoning plan.

These commitments allow Greenacre Park to keep the issue of shadow impacts front and center in the minds of City policy makers and developers as the Greater Midtown East transforms into a “vertical” city.

The effect of the City’s policy to create a “vertical” city is not limited to just to vest pocket parks like Greenacre Park but to all our neighborhood parks and playgrounds. Thus, Greenacre Foundation is committed to working with park and planning groups throughout the City to bring the “Fight of Light” campaign citywide to change City policy so that as development occurs, access to sunlight is examined and mitigation is mandated.

Please see the links to recent articles on the rezoning as well as the side agreement. We will be in touch shortly with you as the “Fight for Light” campaign rolls out citywide. On behalf of Greenacre Park and the hundreds of thousands of people that use the Park annually, we thank you for your continued support and advocacy.