

June 12, 2017

Mayor Bill de Blasio
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

We are writing on behalf of the Board of the Broadway Mall Association (BMA) to urge you to ensure that the Midtown East Rezoning does not adversely affect Greenacre Park on East 51st Street.

For 30 years, BMA has strengthened the social and economic fabric of each neighborhood along Broadway through its horticultural and community programs, public art exhibitions, and winter lighting. Leading a successful public/private partnership that restores and preserves 83 malls along New York's fabled thoroughfare from 70th to 168th Street, BMA proudly advocates for the development of public green space for the enjoyment and enrichment of every member of the diverse communities of upper west Manhattan.

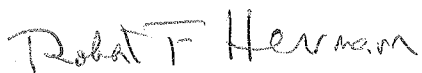
BMA understands the importance of urban green space to the health of city dwellers. Our street trees remove tons of air pollution a year each year, and it has been scientifically proven that time among nature makes people happier. Cities with plants in parks, on sidewalks, and on median strips offer huge benefits, both social and economic. Green space also raises property values and benefit neighborhoods because they are now filled with beautiful plantings.

Regrettably, the current rezoning plan would significantly reduce the amount of sunlight into Greenacre Park.

- Developed in 1971 for public use, Greenacre Park is maintained with private funds through the generosity of the Greenacre Foundation. The vest pocket park attracts residents, families, tourists, and members of the local workforce.
- Tall buildings now cast shadows on the park for two to three hours daily. Left unmodified, the rezoning would lead to even taller buildings that would double the amount of shadow darkening the park.
- The darkened park would forever diminish visitors' enjoyment – and threaten its beautiful vegetation. The park's extraordinary landscaping is already at its minimum requirements for sunlight hours.
- The park is the only green space of its kind in the rezoning study area. According to New Yorkers For Parks, park space is very rare in City Council District 4, with only two percent of its acreage dedicated to parkland – 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.”
- Developed and maintained by the Greenacre Foundation, which was founded by Abby Rockefeller Mauzé, Greenacre Park 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.

We ask you to consider a modified rezoning plan, which would improve midtown Manhattan while also preserving Greenacre Park's scarce sunlight. We urge you to implement a modified rezoning plan that would maintain the character and appeal of this popular and essential open space.

Sincerely,



Robert F. Herrmann
Chairman



Robyn C. Bellamy
Executive Director

cc: Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Daniel R. Garodnick, New York City Council Member