

YES TO HOUSING COALITION

May 31, 2024

Dear Community Board members,

We write to you as a united coalition of pro-housing advocates, experts, affordable housing developers, and civic leaders to express our unwavering support for the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity zoning text amendment. Our more than 130 members work and live in every neighborhood across the city. And in every community, including yours, residents are struggling due to the housing and affordability crisis.

We are at a critical moment. Nearly 500,000 households are severely rent-burdened across the five boroughs, paying more than 50% of their income on rent. In addition, nearly 130,000 people experienced homelessness and stayed in a city shelter on average in March. The solution to the crisis is more housing and more affordable housing.

The proposals in the City of Yes will generate more affordable housing while promoting climate and sustainability goals. The zoning changes also promote fair housing by facilitating the addition of housing in every neighborhood across the city, including those that have seen little new housing in recent decades, while preserving the character that makes each community great.

Unfortunately, housing production — especially affordable housing production — has not been shared equitably across the city. Some neighborhoods are doing more to address the crisis than others. Between 2014 and 2023, the top 10 producing districts welcomed more than 3,500 affordable housing units, while the bottom ten producing districts financed just 200 units or less. In fact, the top-producing district — District 17 in the Bronx — produced 7,182 units in 10 years, as many new units as the lowest-producing 21 districts combined.

Zoning is a powerful tool that should be used responsibly. It is also one of the few tools available to ease the crises before us and adopt a set of policies that will add housing in low, medium and high-density districts to ensure that every neighborhood can work together to add to our affordable housing supply. Current zoning law does not reflect New Yorkers' current or future needs, and we must finally address these stark disparities in housing by updating our outdated zoning code.

Every neighborhood has a responsibility to our fellow New Yorkers and the families who would be a part of our community if given the chance. We look forward to working with you to shape a more equitable and affordable city for all. Please don't hesitate to reach out (you can contact Brendan Cheney at NYHC: brendan.cheney@thenyh.org) with any questions about our work or on the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity zoning text.

Sincerely,

The undersigned
Association for a Better New York
American Institute of Architects New York
Amie Gross Architects

The Arker Companies
Ascendant Neighborhood
Development Corporation
Asian Americans For Equality

YES TO HOUSING COALITION

Association of Tenants of Lincoln Towers

BRC

Breaking Ground

The Briarwood Organization

Bright Power, Inc.

Brisa Builders Development

Broadway Community, Inc.

Bronx Pro Group LLC

C&V Consulting

CAMBA Housing Ventures, Inc./CAMBA, Inc.

Camber Property Group

Catholic Charities POP Development

Catholic Community Relations Council

Chhaya

Chinatown BID/Partnership

Citizens Housing and Planning Council

CLOTH

Community Housing

Improvement Program (CHIP)

Community Preservation Corporation

Concern Housing

Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)

Curtis + Ginsberg Architects LLP

Dattner Architects

The Delaine Companies

Designing the WE

Douglaston Development

East End YIMBY

Enterprise Community Partners

EW Howell Construction Group

Fair Housing Justice Center

Fifth Avenue Committee

Fordham-Bedford Housing Corporation

Forsyth Street Advisors

FPWA

FXCollaborative Architects LLP

Genesis Companies

Geto & de Milly, Inc.

Goddard Riverside

Gotham Organization

Habitat for Humanity New York City
and Westchester County

HANAC

The Health & Housing Consortium

HELP USA

Homeless Services United

Hope Community Inc.

Housing and Services, Inc.

Housing Rights Initiative

The Hudson Companies

Interfaith Assembly on
Homelessness and Housing

JASA

Jonathan Rose Companies

Joy Construction

K2New Business Development

L+M Development Partners

Lantern Community Services

Lantern Organization

LISC NY

LiveOn NY

Low income Investment Fund (LIIF)

Macquesten Development

Madd Equities

Matrix New World Engineering

MBD Community Housing Corp.

Mega Contracting

Milestone Development LLC

Monadnock Development

YES TO HOUSING COALITION

Neighborhood Housing Services of NYC	Services for the Underserved
Neighborhood Restore HDFC	Settlement Housing Fund, Inc.
New Destiny Housing	Shams DaBaron, Da Housing Hero
NYC Housing Partnership	Shelter Rock Builders
NYC New Liberals	SKA Marin
New York Building Congress	Slate Property Group
New York Housing Conference	SMJ Development
New York League of Conservation Voters	St. Nicks Alliance
New York State Council of Churches	Supportive Housing Network of New York
The NHP Foundation	TF Cornerstone
Niskanen Center	Transportation Alternatives
The NRP Group	Trinity Church Wall Street
NYSFAFH	Trinity Financial
Open New York	Type A Projects
Open Plans	UHAB
Pennrose	Unique People Services
Perci PBC	University Neighborhood Housing Program, Inc.
Phipps Houses	Urban Architectural Initiatives RA P.C.
PRC	Urban Pathways
Project Renewal	Urbecon LLC
Purpose by Design Architects	VIP Community Services
Queens Bronx Building Association	Volunteers of America-Greater New York
Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY)	Wavecrest Management
Red Stone Equity Partners	Westhab
Regional Plan Association	West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing
Riders Alliance	WHEDco
RiseBoro Community Partnership	Xenolith Partners LLC
RKTB Architects	Youth Action Programs and Homes Inc.
Robin Hood	Yuco Management
Rockabill Development, LLC	Zillow
Safe Horizon	
Selfhelp Realty Group	