



January 24, 2014

John Sexton
 President
 New York University
 70 Washington Square South
 New York, NY 10012

Dear President Sexton:

We are writing regarding New York University’s expansion plan (“NYU 2031”), which was subject to a January 7, 2014 Manhattan Supreme Court decision. We agree with the court’s ruling that the plan “alienated public park land without approval by the New York State Legislature in violation of the Public Trust Doctrine.” The park strips in question – Mercer Playground, LaGuardia Park, and LaGuardia Corner Gardens – have for some time been highly-utilized public open spaces.

It is our belief that the court’s ruling striking down this portion of the plan creates a significant change to NYU 2031 and therefore should void the prior land use and zoning approvals. In light of this, we ask that NYU reconsider the plan in its entirety and provide the community and faculty members a significant role in a revived public process, as Manhattan Community Board 2 advocated in its February 23, 2012 resolution. A new project plan should not only conform to the restrictions imposed by the recent ruling by respecting established open spaces, but also to the character of the surrounding community.

We see this as a moment of opportunity for the University to correct the course of its relationship with the local neighborhood and faculty. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Brad Hoylman
 NY State Senator

Jerrold L. Nadler
 US Representative

Gale A. Brewer
 Manhattan Borough President

Daniel Squadron
 NY State Senator

Deborah J. Glick
 NYS Assembly Member

Corey Johnson
 NYC Councilmember

cc: Manhattan Community Board 2