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**The City of New York  
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

June 14, 2021

Corey Johnson, Speaker  
New York City Council  
250 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007

**Re: Planning Together: A New Comprehensive Planning Framework for New York City**

At the Land Use Committee meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on June 9, 2020, the board approved the following resolution by a vote of 38 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention, and 0 not voting for cause.

**WHEREAS**, legislation has been introduced in the City Council to enact a proposal called Planning Together for purposes of developing and implementing a comprehensive city plan;

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has presented to community boards, including Community Board 8 Manhattan, and invited feedback on the Planning Together legislation from community boards;

**WHEREAS**, the Community Board 8 Manhattan Planning Together Task Force and the board generally have reviewed and considered the Planning Together legislation with a view to providing comments and feedback to the City Council;

**WHEREAS**, communities are due a greater role in final determinations of zoning, development, and land use matters;

**WHEREAS**, local control of zoning, development, and land use is preferable to centralized control;

**WHEREAS**, existing landmarks and landmark status must be preserved and maintained;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. CB8 opposes the proposal embodied in the Planning Together legislation as currently drafted and structured;
2. CB8 recommends that the proposal be modified to include the following:
  - a. The Director of Long Term Planning should be appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Council and Public Advocate;
  - b. Borough Steering Committees should be replaced by existing Borough Boards;
  - c. The “land use scenario” for each community district should be chosen by the community board for that district;
  - d. Landmarks and public safety should be added as subjects to be considered in creating land use scenarios;
  - e. No citywide targets and corresponding community district targets should be set by the city except with respect to resiliency infrastructure, environmental sustainability, and sanitation;

- f. Community Boards should be able to appeal any citywide targets and corresponding community district targets.
- g. Community district land use scenario targets with respect to, without limitation, housing, jobs (including associated needed commercial, retail, and industrial space), open space, city facilities, school seats, public transportation, public utilities, and other infrastructure should be set by the local community board;
- h. Community boards should be given resources to do their own planning in their district and to provide the quantitative and qualitative surveys provided for in the district needs statements;
- i. Where public hearings are required, there should be at least one in each community district;
- j. Resources should be provided for community boards to create 197-a plans should they wish to do so.

Please advise our office of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

*Russell Squire*

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Chair

cc: Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York  
Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12th Congressional District Representative  
Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District  
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District  
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District  
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District  
Honorable Robert J. Rodriguez, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District  
Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District  
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District