

January 31, 2022

Andrew Hamilton, President  
New York University  
70 Washington Square South  
New York, NY 10012

Lynne P. Brown, Ph.D., Senior Vice-President  
New York University  
70 Washington Square South, Rm. 1211  
New York, NY 10012

Dear President Hamilton and Dr. Brown:

We have recently learned that New York University (NYU) offered the School Construction Authority (SCA) an extension to provide notice of intent to construct a school until December 31, 2023 with a deadline to begin construction by December 31, 2025. We have also learned that the SCA accepted that offer of an extension despite having fulfilled their requirements explained in Section 5.1 of the Restrictive Declaration. We certainly hope that an extension is not an effort to further exacerbate the encumbrance of relocating the Morton Williams grocery store thus resulting in no feasible way to build a school on the proposed site.

As you may remember, during previous meetings with local elected officials, NYU was emphatic that the extension granted in 2019 which set the school election deadline of December 31, 2021 would be the final such extension granted. It is curious that NYU initiated the request for the SCA to seek another extension given our impression in 2019 that the university was wholly opposed to any further extensions. Since the 2012 Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) was certified and a Restrictive Declaration for the *NYU 2031: NYU in NYC* plan was negotiated with the City Council, the community has known that there are possible changes coming to the corner of Bleeker Street and La Guardia Place.

In fact, regarding the design of 181 Mercer Street, the 2012 City Planning Commission Report states that, "the 4- to 5-story plinth would contain 81,000 sf of zfa of academic uses, which NYU has identified for use by the Tisch School of Performing Arts and the Steinhardt School, and 29,000 sf of zfa of retail uses including a replacement grocery store for the existing Morton Williams supermarket" (p. 14). Our offices have also undertaken a review of notes and letters dating back to the original ULURP meetings hosted by Community Board 2 where NYU frequently committed to preserving the Morton Williams, and potentially placing it at 181 Mercer Street.

We are concerned that NYU is simply trying to grant an extension to the SCA while no feasible permanent home for the Morton Williams site is offered within 181 Mercer as had previously been determined. This would effectively then close any opportunity to move the grocery store and allow the SCA to proceed with a cleared and available site for the construction of the school. Effectively, when faced with the loss of a much-needed community asset like a grocery store, NYU will be able to shirk any responsibility previously negotiated in ULURP for the provision of a school in our community.

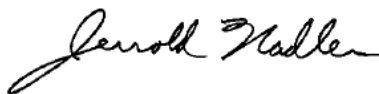
That is why we are urging you to either reserve space in 181 Mercer Street for the successful relocation of the Morton Williams grocery store, or to find a suitable alternative within NYU core as discussed in the 2012 ULURP, which can then allow SCA to successfully construct a school at this location. We hope that you will see this as a commitment to not only the Greenwich Village community which requires a local grocery store, but also a greater commitment to the students and youth of New York City.

Thank you and we hope to hear a response from you outlining your efforts to work with SCA toward a successful plan for this school.

Sincerely,



Deborah J. Glick  
Assemblymember



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Brad Hoylman  
State Senator



Brian Kavanagh  
State Senator



Erik Bottcher  
NYC Councilmember



Christopher Marte  
NYC Councilmember

CC: Nina Kubota, President & CEO, NYC School Construction Authority  
Andrea Bender, Vice President of External Affairs, NYC School Construction Authority