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DANIEL O'DONNELL
Member of Assembly
69th Assembly District

October 17, 2018

Jeffrey I. Farber, M.D.
President & CEO, The New Jewish Home
120 West 106th Street
New York, NY 10025

Re: Jewish Home Lifecare, Inc. proposed nursing home project on 125 West 97th Street

Dear Dr. Farber,

I write to you regarding the October 16th decision by the New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, which denied the New York City Department of Buildings (“DOB”) permit for Jewish Home Lifecare, Inc. (“JHL”) to construct a twenty-story building on 125 West 97th Street. This decision provides a much-needed relief to our community, which has passionately opposed this development on this lot due to substantiated concerns that it would seriously harm our quality of life, environment, and health.

The blocks surrounding the project are already highly-dense, and face acute traffic congestion and over-tasked infrastructure. This project would only exacerbate the congestion problem, making it more difficult for traffic, particularly emergency vehicles, school buses, and pedestrians, to quickly and safely pass through the area.

Most egregiously, the construction would put the most vulnerable members of our community - seniors and children - at unnecessary risk. The lot, which contains toxic levels of lead, is directly adjacent to P.S. 163 as well as two residential buildings with many aging residents. The construction would release lead, dust and debris into the vicinity, severely harming the health of our seniors and the development of students of P.S. 163.

The courts and the community have made it very clear that this project should never have moved forward in the first place. I urge you to respect the Appellate Court’s decision and immediately abandon this plan to construct on 93rd Street. As we have been advocating for, a much more appropriate location for a new nursing home would be at your current site on 106th Street. The community has certainly fought long enough against this project, and they finally deserve to be listened to and respected.

Very truly yours,

Daniel O'Donnell

CC: Bruce Nathanson, Senior Vice President, External Affairs, the New Jewish Home

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