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DANIEL O'DONNELL  
Member of Assembly  
69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

October 17, 2018

Mayor Bill de Blasio  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

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

Dear Mayor de Blasio,

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.

As you know, the blocks surrounding the project are already highly-dense, and face acute traffic congestion and over-tasked infrastructure. This project would exacerbate the congestion, 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, 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, and that not every piece of land needs to be filled in with a high rise. Our antiquated zoning and land use regulations are allowing inappropriate development throughout the city; often development is being approved regardless of whether it serves the needs of the neighborhood. It shouldn't be the burden of residents to keep their communities safe and regulate distribution of resources. The community has certainly fought long enough against this project, and they finally deserve to be listened to and respected. I hope that as Mayor, you will take actions to reform zoning so that inappropriate projects will not be granted permits in the first place.

Very truly yours,

Daniel O'Donnell

CC: Jeffrey Farber, President & CEO, The New Jewish Home

□ DISTRICT OFFICE: 245 West 104<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, New York 10025 • 212-866-3970, Fax: 212-864-1095  
□ ALBANY OFFICE: Room 712, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-5603, Fax: 518-455-3812  
E-mail Address: [odonnelld@nyassembly.gov](mailto:odonnelld@nyassembly.gov)