



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

SCOTT STRINGER  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

Amanda M. Burden, FAICP  
Chair  
City Planning Commission  
22 Reade Street  
New York, NY 10007

November 14, 2011

Dear Chair Burden:

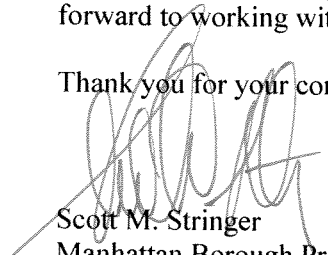
I am writing to express my support for studying a potential rezoning of the east side of the Bowery. The eastern edge of the Bowery has a unique built form, which unlike its western counterpart, is not in a special zoning district or historic district. As a result, several buildings that are out of context in terms of size and built form have been constructed.

As you are aware, the Bowery was not included in the East Village/Lower East Side rezoning. Since that time, Community Board 3 has dedicated two Community Planning Fellows to studying the conditions on the Bowery and the Bowery Alliance of Neighbors (BAN) has also conducted its own study of the area. The resulting studies include recommendations for zoning solutions, but also recognize that zoning cannot be the only protection. As such, community groups are exploring protections, outside of a zoning framework, which will protect specific buildings through historic districts on the City, State and Federal levels. These studies represent a continued interest in finding new ways to protect and maintain the Bowery's historic built form.

Local elected officials, Community Board 3 and many community groups have all expressed a desire to pursue a rezoning of the Bowery, in addition to acknowledging the need for other protections. Given the rapid changes to the built form on the Bowery, I believe it is time for the City to work with the relevant stakeholders to assess the appropriateness of zoning solutions on the east side of the Bowery.

I therefore request that the Department of City Planning consider a zoning study for the area that will encourage appropriate built forms while preserving the Bowery's historic character. If you have any questions please contact Brian Cook, my Director of Land Use, Planning and Development at (212) 669-2224. As always, I look forward to working with you further on this matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

  
Scott M. Stringer  
Manhattan Borough President

cc: Hon. Jerrold Nadler  
Hon. Sheldon Silver

Hon. Daniel Squadron  
Hon. Tom Duane  
Hon. Deborah Glick  
Hon. Margaret Chin  
Hon. Rosie Mendez  
Community Board 3  
David Mulkins, Bowery Alliance of Neighbors  
Victor Papa, Two Bridges Neighborhood Council  
East Village Community Coalition