

Margaret Chin

Democrat for City Council

Amanda Burden
Chairperson
City Planning Commission
22 Reade Street
New York, NY 10007

July 14, 2009

Dear Ms. Burden

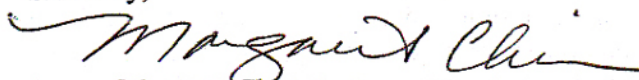
I am writing to you today in regards to development on the Bowery. As a community organizer, affordable housing advocate, and local resident for over 30 years, I feel passionately about the historical integrity and protection of the Bowery area.

The Bowery is an integral part of lower Manhattan, and the City as a whole. It helps to link together neighborhoods stretching from the Lower East Side to Chinatown, up and down the 1st City Council district. In recent years, increasing development has threatened this historic area, and the neighborhoods all across this area.

While some parts of this area, such as NoHo and Little Italy, have been protected with special zoning and other measures, the Bowery and its east side are threatened with becoming a playground for developers. The historical landscape of low, expansive loft-style buildings, local stores, and tenement buildings that has defined this area for generations of immigrants and New Yorkers is at risk. Moreover, gigantic high-rise hotels and condos being built in the area create mid-block eyesores and ruin the flow and feel of the area and the Bowery's characteristic architectural beauty. Finally, high-rise development on the Bowery is pushing out local residents, many of whom have lived in the area for decades and cannot afford to move into newer, more expensive housing. I believe that those who help create our neighborhoods should not be forced from their homes and priced out of the area for the sake of newer, fancier, and taller developments.

For these reasons, I strongly support the East Bowery Preservation Plan. I urge you to support low-rise contextual zoning to preserve this historic and important part of New York's architectural and cultural heritage.

Sincerely,



Margaret Chin

Candidate for New York City Council, district 1