



Amanda Burden  
Chair, City Planning Commission  
Director, Department of City Planning  
City of New York  
22 Reade Street  
New York, NY 10007

August 14, 2009

Dear Ms. Burden,


I have owned and operated Katra Lounge at 217 Bowery since 2006. Katra is part of the bold cultural fabric of the Bowery, a famous New York City grand dame avenue with eccentric cachet. With a unique synthesis of Middle Eastern, Moroccan and French fare, Katra is at the forefront of a new wave of nightlife and small businesses attracting New Yorkers and visitors from all over the world to the Bowery and Lower Manhattan. It has been challenging and rewarding as the Bowery progresses toward a new era of revitalization.

I have personally interacted with community members, residents, small businesses and local government representatives on a continual basis to help effect a positive impact on the Bowery. I am as much a part of this neighborhood as any business, and I believe an integral part of the community. I'm committed to my continuing role as a stakeholder in the exciting, diverse and prosperous future of this historic neighborhood.

I'm aware that the east side of the Bowery doesn't share the same protective historical architectural zoning of the west side, which is protected by the Special Little Italy District and the NoHo District. I support the Bowery Alliance of Neighbors' zoning proposal for the east side of the Bowery.

This is an important step toward ensuring that the Bowery will prosper with its rich history preserved. The historic architecture and nature of the Bowery can coexist with reasonable development and neighborhood improvement. I strongly urge you to adopt the Bowery Alliance of Neighbors East Bowery Preservation Plan.

Sincerely,



Christopher Collins  
212-473-3113  
<http://www.katranyc.com>