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June 16, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

The Bowery holds a unique and valuable place in the history of the Lower East Side and New York City in general. A center of working class culture for close to two centuries, its character can never be replaced.

In addition to its cultural history, the Bowery is the home to many diverse small businesses. No community in this country is as well known for its dynamic small businesses as the Lower East Side, Chinatown and NoHo. To allow this enduring strength in our community to be threatened by out-of-scale development is dangerous, particularly in these economic times.

For these reasons and many others, I firmly support the Bowery Alliance of Neighbors' plan to bring the zoning on the east side of the Bowery in line with that of the Special Little Italy District on the west side of the street.

Sincerely,

Peter Gleason

Democrat for New York City Council

District 1