Regent Restaurant Equipment, Inc.
213 Bowery
NY, NY 10002
(212)353-3394
Primitivo Vasquez, Owner   Armand Himy, Manager

August 15, 2009

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

Dear Ms. Burden,

   Regent Restaurant Equipment has been located at 213 Bowery for over twelve years.
We have worked hard to make this business successful, to provide steady
employment for our workers, and to provide quality merchandise and reliable services to the
restaurants we do business with.   We have also contributed to the improvement of a
neighborhood that had for a long time been in decline.

   Like many business owners in this well-established lighting and restaurant supply
district, I view with great personal alarm how rapidly real estate speculators and luxury
developers are destroying the neighborhood's skyline and displacing its residents and
small businesses.   As rents skyrocket and long time neighbors pack up and leave,
we cannot help but fear that our own business may soon be forced out.   My employees
also worry about their future.

   Though my primary concern is obviously for my business and my employees,
I do share with my neighbors an appreciation for the area's history and architecture.
The Bowery is on the border of such old immigrant areas as Chinatown, Little Italy,
and the Lower East Side. The small buildings in this area still have a warm, welcoming village
type feel to them that is missing in the areas with skyscrapers.   Visitors like to experience
the old neighborhoods, so it doesn't make sense to tear down the old buildings like
they are doing on the east side of the Bowery.

   I therefore strongly support the East Bowery Preservation Plan, which would give the
Bowery's east side the same low-rise zoning that is found on the Bowery's west side.
Protecting the entire Bowery would preserve its historical character and its long-established
jewelry, restaurant supply, and lighting districts.   Please save the Bowery!

Sincerely,

Primitivo Vasquez, Owner   Armand Himy, Manager