



March 8, 2021

Hon. Eric Adams, Brooklyn Borough President
Brooklyn Borough Hall
209 Joralemon Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

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VILLAGEPRESERVATION.ORG

Dear Borough President Adams,

I am in receipt of your response to New Yorkers who have written you about the City's proposed SoHo/NoHo Upzoning (attached) in which you say you do not have a role in the approval process for this project. As you know, this is false, as has already been communicated to your staff. It is disappointing that your response continues to include this misinformation.

Such a rezoning must be heard and approved by the New York City Planning Commission. You, like all Borough Presidents, have an appointee who represents you and your borough on the City Planning Commission, who will in fact vote on this proposal if it moves ahead. You alone among the city's five borough presidents -- all of whom have been receiving emails on this subject -- have replied saying you have no role in this decision-making process.

But there is an additional reason why you were included on this email. You have repeatedly publicly stated that you believe SoHo and NoHo, and neighborhoods like them, should be upzoned in the manner the city proposes, and would do so as Mayor. Our recently-released study shows that such an upzoning would actually make these neighborhoods richer, whiter, and more expensive, likely destroy more affordable housing than they create, and disproportionately push out lower income people and people of color.

I urge you to take a look at the study, which can be found at villagepreservation.org/sohostudy, and to rethink your support for upzoning SoHo and NoHo and similar initiatives. And I also urge you to acknowledge your responsibility for your role in these types of land use issues.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman
Executive Director

Cc: Neighborhood residents

From: "Eric, Ask (BROOKLYNBP)" AskEric@brooklynbp.nyc.gov
Subject: RE: SoHo NoHo Upzoning Would Destroy More Affordable Housing
Than It Creates+ Make These Neighborhoods More Expensive+Less Diverse

Thank you for reaching out to the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President. The Brooklyn BP does not have a role in the approval process for this project. Please contact your local CM and Manhattan BP.