



Greenwich Village
Society for Historic Preservation
232 East 11th Street
New York, New York 10003



Save Chelsea
130 West 16th Street
Suite 61
New York, NY 10011

September 5, 2012

Hon. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker
New York City Council
224 West 30th Street, Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001
Delivered via e-mail and fax

Re: Application to Upzone Chelsea Market

Dear Speaker Quinn:

Following the approval by the City Planning Commission of a modified application by Jamestown Properties to upzone Chelsea Market to allow the construction of large structures atop the 9th and 10th Avenue ends of the complex, we write to strongly urge you to vote 'no' on the proposal and to ask your colleagues on the City Council to do the same.

We feel strongly that it is fundamentally wrong to upzone this block for additional development. The current complex on the site is already quite large; the zoning for the site is the same as for many surrounding blocks, which have been developed quite profitably under its regulations; huge additions atop this landmark complex will permanently mar its historic features; the immediate area is already beset with enormous problems of traffic and congestion, which an upzoning will only make worse; and recent rezonings in the area and throughout Community Board #4 have already added millions of square feet of new development potential, only a fraction of which has already been realized, which in the coming years will greatly exacerbate these problems even without this upzoning.

As you know, community groups throughout Chelsea and the West Village have come out against any plan to upzone and build additions atop this complex, and thousands of New Yorkers have signed petitions, written letters, and testified at public hearings against this plan. Local affordable housing advocates have come out strongly against the plan and its promise of a contribution to an affordable housing fund. And as preservation advocates, we feel that the suggested coupling of upzoning the site to allow huge additions on top with measures to preserve the remainder of the complex would be cold comfort at best and tantamount to closing the barn door after the horses are out.

For all of these reasons, we strongly urge you to deny this or any other application to upzone Chelsea Market and to allow additional development on that block.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman, Executive Director
Greenwich Village Society
for Historic Preservation

Lesley Doyel and Justin Hoy
Co-Presidents
Save Chelsea