


GREENWICH VILLAGE  CHELSEA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

February 13, 2013

Christine C. Quinn
Speaker, New York City Council
Legislative Office Address
250 Broadway Suite 1856
New York, New York 10007

Dear Speaker Quinn,

As Executive Director of the Greenwich Village-Chelsea Chamber of Commerce, I am writing in support of the proposal to change the current zoning regulations of Hudson Square. The vibrant commercial area, which extends from Canal to Houston Street, Sixth Ave to the West end, is full of commerce by day, but turns into a barren locale by night and weekend. Rezoning Hudson Square will help to bolster the local economy for small businesses and the standard of living for current residents.

Under its current manufacturing zoning status, Hudson Square has become a magnet for large companies and innovative entrepreneurs, bringing new products, services, and opportunities to lower Manhattan. To support the thousands of workers in its buildings, delis, fast food restaurants, and other eateries have dominated ground-floor spaces throughout the neighborhood, resulting in a lack of retail diversity. Furthermore, once the workday ends, commerce is almost non-existent and therefore not living up to its full potential.

The proposal to change the area into a mixed-use zone, both residential and commercial, will help grow the established businesses, attract new unique merchants, and retain the current commercial vibrancy of Hudson Square. Moreover, the rezoning will create spaces for cultural institutions, another much needed component of any great New York City neighborhood. Furthermore, the rezoning proposal will set a height limit for the first time in the area, preserving the present skyline of the area and preventing future eyesores.

After conferring with the Hudson Square Bid, who is largely in support of the plan, and conducting on our own fact-finding measures, we have found that both residents and businesses of Hudson Square will greatly benefit from the new zoning regulations. On behalf of the small business community, we hope that you can see the time and care that was put into the proposal and will allow the plan to move forward.

Sincerely,



Tom Gray
Executive Director

cc: NYC Council Land Use Committee