Subcommittee on Planning, Dispositions, and Concessions
Testimony on 126<sup>th</sup> Street African Burial Ground Memorial and Mixed-Use Project
Diane Collier, Chair, Manhattan Community Board 11
August 21, 2017

Good Afternoon, Madam Speaker, Mr. /Ms. Chair Committee members.

My name is Diane Collier and I am the Chair of Community Board 11 Manhattan. As I am unable to attend this afternoon, I am submitting this written statement to support the 126<sup>th</sup> Bus depot.

The 126<sup>th</sup> Bus project has plenty of goals and just as many uncertainties - no developer, no proposed layout, no plans of zoning uses, no financials with RFP issued after the ULURP completed. CB11 members initially voiced concerns working on the project and giving approval to a "cart before the horse" application.

But as you will hear so eloquently from Harlem African Burial Taskforce, the village of Harlem, often synonymous with Central Harlem, began right here in East Harlem. A fact CB11 and I a black woman from East Harlem are very proud of. In addition, we also learned that a community of color and their stories disturbed and forgotten over 300 years was confirmed at this sacred land which now CB11 will make a recommendation for new uses in 21st century.

Yes, there were voices to preserve as parkland. In a perfect world, the entire site should be sacred. But we don't live in a perfect world. So, the task for CB11 was to work thru the unknowns for a solution memorializing this site of forgotten souls while addressing community concerns of today affordable housing, economic opportunities to close the income gap for our residents. CB11 stepped up to the challenge. Expanded scoping comments stated our intent; board members joined the taskforce, numerous presentations, and agenda item discussion at every committee until final vote.

At a late full board April meeting, CB11 voted yes (27 in favor, 3 opposed/abstain) with conditions based on our and East Harlem Neighborhood Plan core values 100% affordability, local hiring, mixed economic development use. However, we added two essential provisions critical to our decision:

- 1) Ensure the project honors, protects and sustains the sanctity and cultural history of Harlem African Burial Ground at this site
- 2) CB11 remains and has an official and meaningful role throughout the RFP process, final design and implementation thereof.

I ask for your support of this application as recommended by CB11.

Sharon Wilkins
Registered Public Historian
Co-Chair History, Member Executive Committee
Harlem African Burial Ground Task Force (HABGTF)

Testimony in Support of the Harlem African Burial Ground Memorial and Cultural Education Center Monday, August 21, 2017

For almost a decade, the Harlem African Burial Ground Task Force, a group of professional volunteers with wide ranging expertise have engaged in a multi-disciplinary, collaborative and strategic process that involves dialogue and partnerships with local residents, Community Board 11, the 126<sup>th</sup> Street Bus Depot Task Force, New York City Economic Development Corporation, the MTA, NYC DOT, other government entities, archaeologists and other experts, and most recently, Lord Cultural Resources – a professional organization dedicated to promoting visionary culturally-based programming worldwide.

These important and dedicated efforts, centering around information gathering, research and Interpretation, scholarship, community engagement and institutional fact-finding are focused on re-discovering and sharing facts and information pertinent to over 350 years of United States history – and, more specifically the history of Harlem and New York City. This rich history, largely unknown, involves the histories of indigenous people (the area's first inhabitants and architects of a fishing village and most probably a trading post) and Black Americans (free and enslaved) whose knowledge, skill and craftsmanship were crucial to building the infrastructure, culture and society of this nation. Without knowledge about and recognition of the contributions of Black America, there can be no authentic record of American history.

Through aesthetically attractive design, on-going research and scholarship and visionary programming, the HABGTF desires to remember and honor free and enslaved Africans (New York's "colony builders") and connect their stories and life experiences to issues affecting modern day 21<sup>st</sup> century life in Harlem, New York and the nation. Furthermore, the intent of the memorial and cultural Center is to: reverse the neglect and desecration of the sacred space known as the Harlem African Burial Ground; honor the lives and contributions of those interred there; bring diverse audiences together in the hope that they may find resources, information and solutions to continued local, national and global struggles for economic and social justice; offer educational experiences, research, forums, exhibitions, conferences, creative expression and other events and activities that will educate, enlighten, inspire and spiritually uplift all visitors; and, generate increased interest in East Harlem as a rich historical, social and economically viable destination for local residents, national and international visitors. Recognition for this project has been received through a Mack award for archaeology and public engagement, listing and participation in the on-going Dutch Mapping Project (an initiative comprised of historians, genealogists and scholars from the Netherlands and other European countries) and State and National Historic Registers designation is pending.

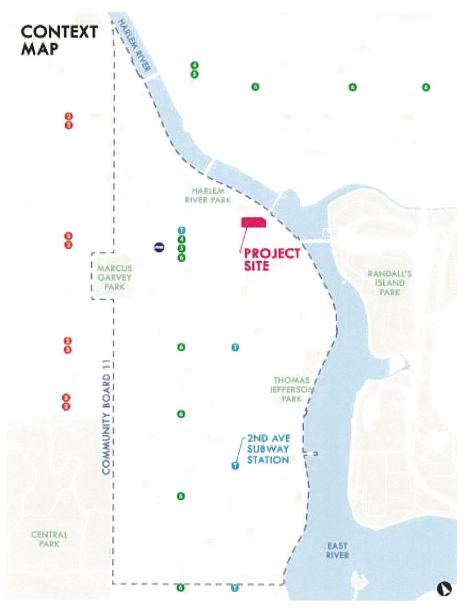
# 126<sup>th</sup> Street African Burial Ground Memorial and Mixed-Use Project

August 21, 2017

**City Council Planning Subcommittee** 



## Site Facts





- City-owned former MTA bus depot
- 2460 Second Avenue
- Total area: 116,000 SF
- M1-2 zoning district

# Bus Depot Site Today





 $2^{\text{nd}}$  Ave & 126th St, looking northeast



 $2^{\text{nd}}$  Ave &  $127^{\text{th}}$  St, looking southeast

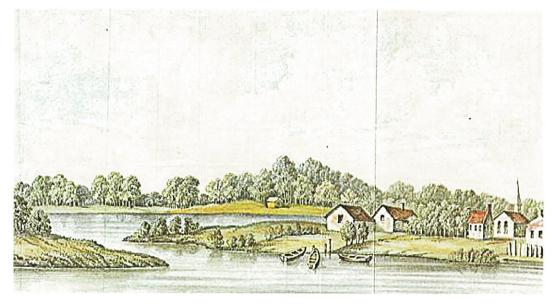
## Harlem African Burial Ground Task Force

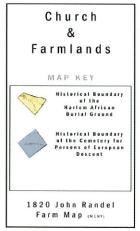
Founded in 2009, the Task Force's core mission is to promote, protect, and reclaim the history of the Harlem African Burial Ground.

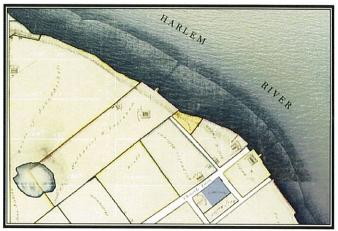
**2011**: CB 11 designates HABGTF as organization representing the interest of the historic cemetery

### **Co-Chairs**

- Reverend Dr. Patricia Singletary,
   Pastor, Elmendorf Reformed
   Church
- City Council Speaker Melissa
   Mark-Viverito







## Harlem African Burial Ground Task Force Vision

#### HABGTF vision for a living memorial:

- 1. Be iconic and timeless
- 2. Evoke historical significance and impact through education and empowerment
- 3. Foster a sacred sense of place

#### Archaeological Work: 2011 - Present

- HABGTF has been involved in all archeological and preservation work
- Will continue to oversee further evaluation of the site under City and State protocols

### **Public Education: Ongoing**

- HABGTF is educating community on the cultural and historic significance of site
- Project team recognized with award for community engagement



Task Force members (left to right): Manhattan Deputy Borough Historian Sharon Wilkins, Reverend Dr. Patricia A. Singletary, and Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito

## Community Planning Process

**2015**: **126**<sup>th</sup> **Street Bus Depot Task Force** formed to develop project goals:

- Establish permanent outdoor memorial and cultural education center to honor and commemorate Burial Ground
- Develop mix of uses, including mixedincome affordable housing and jobcreating commercial uses
- Enhance streetscape and pedestrian connections to surrounding neighborhood
- Advance financially feasible project that supports cost of constructing and operating memorial and cultural center





## Development Program

### These components will achieve key project goals:

#### Harlem African Burial Ground Memorial

- 18,000 SF set aside as permanent outdoor memorial
- Indoor cultural education center providing programs and events

#### **Affordable Housing**

- Objective: Maximize affordability while providing revenue to support memorial
- Approx. 730 units of housing
- 20% affordable to families earning 30% or less of AMI
- 50% affordable at up to 80% of AMI, 50% of units above 80% AMI
- At least 25% of units permanently affordable through MIH.

#### Commercial Uses / Jobs

- Approx. 100,000 SF of retail and community facility space
- Approx. 200,000 SF of office space

#### **Pedestrian Environment**

Design guidelines to improve connections to surrounding blocks, parks, and waterfront

## Proposed Land Use Actions

### Zoning Map Amendment – Rezoning from M1-2 to C6-3

Change zoning from existing M1-2 light manufacturing district to C6-3
 General Central Commercial District

## Zoning Text Amendment – Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH)

 Map the project site as MIH Designated Area subject to affordability requirements of Options 1 or 2 of MIH program

### City Map Amendment – Second Avenue

 Change to City Map to narrow portion of Second Ave from 174 feet to no less than 125 feet (area currently used for bus parking)

## Disposition of City-owned property

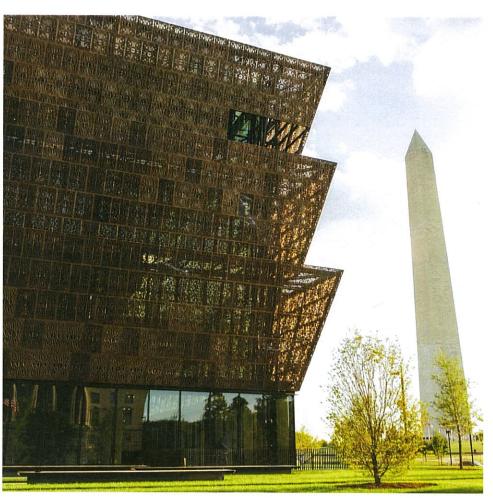
 Disposition of Project Site (City-owned Block 1803, Lot 1 and the adjacent demapping area) by City of New York for future development

## Memorial Feasibility Study

On behalf of HABGTF, EDC has engaged Lord Cultural Resources as consultants to develop memorial programming, governance, and space program







Top left: Studio Museum of Harlem; Bottom left: Lumpkins Jail Site, Richmond, VA; Right: Smithsonian MAAHC, Washington, DC

## SMJ Development 150 Myrtle Avenue Suite 2 Brooklyn, NY 11201

August 21, 2017

The Honorable Robert E. Cornegy Jr. New York City Council District 36 1360 Fulton Street, Suite 500 Brooklyn, NY 11216

RE: ULURP C 170304 HAK

Brooklyn Block 1699/Lots 35, 39, 43

Dear Councilmember Cornegy:

I'm writing this letter to you to affirm SMJ's commitment to provide affordable and sustainable commercial leasing opportunities to local and/or minority/women owned businesses at the referenced location. I am pledging to working with your office, Community Board 3, and the Bed-Stuy Gateway BID to ensure that local businesses and other neighborhood entrepreneurs are apprised of the offering and the landlord's willingness to structure lease that will allow the tenant to grow and thrive. Specifically, SMJ commits to creating four small retail spaces at approximately 1,000 sqf each. SMJ commits to a strong preference for small local businesses when considering tenants for these spaces.

The mixed-use project is providing affordable housing. However I feel that the ground floor retail should also reflect the communities' needs and afford opportunity to those desirous of it. I look forward to the development of this project and continued partnership with your office.

Respectfully,

Juan Barahoha

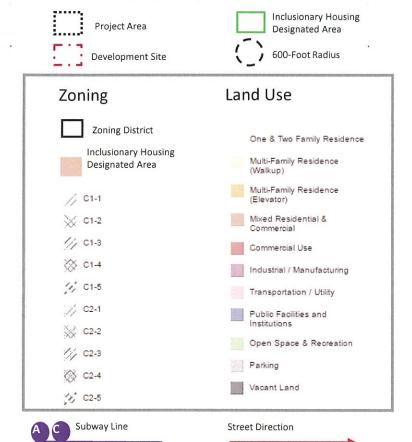
# 1618 FULTON STREET



### Area Map

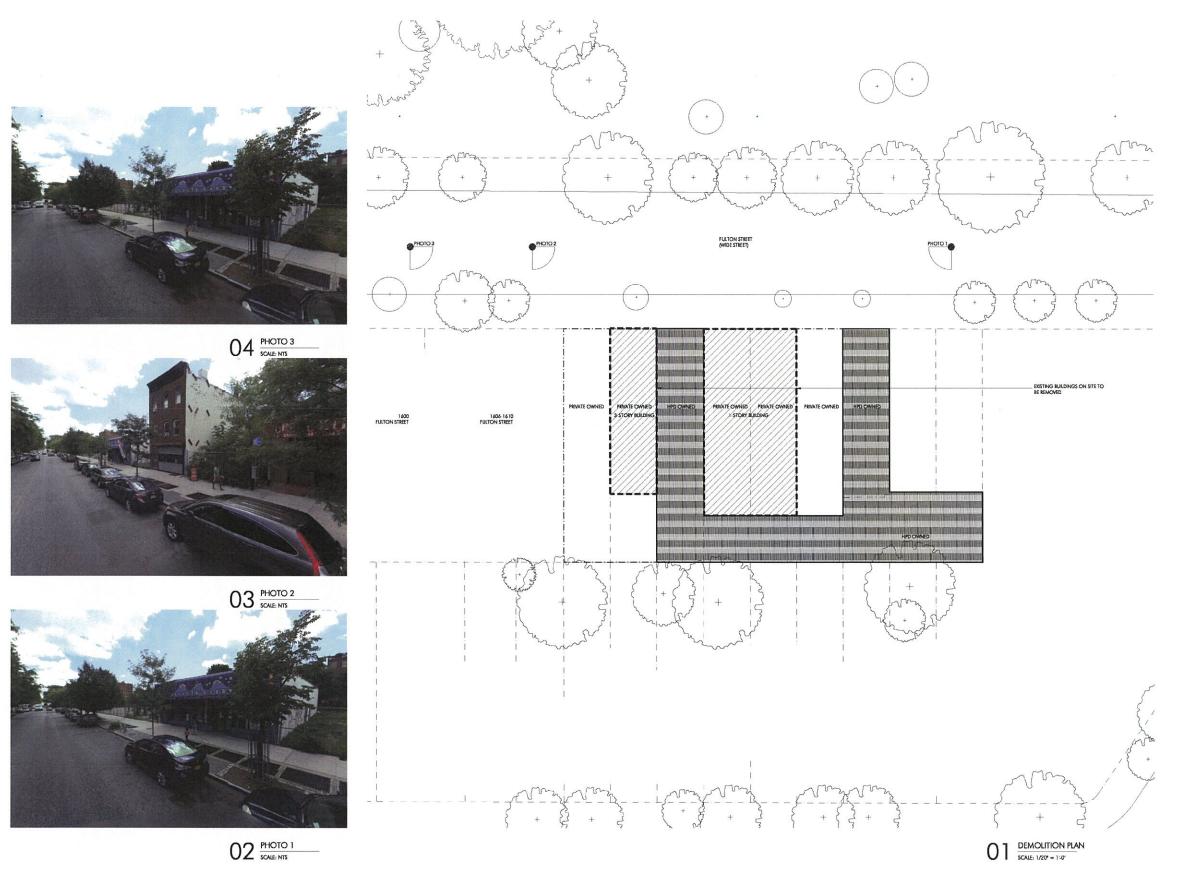
#### 1618 Fulton Street Area Map Brooklyn Block 1699

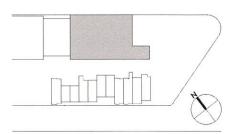
Lots 33, 34, 35, 36, 137, 38, 39, and 43











1618 FULTON STREET 1612-1624 FULTON STREET Brooklyn, NY 11213 Block(s) 1699 Lot(s) 33,34,35,36,137,38,39,43

#### Architects:

Shakespeare Gordon Vlado Architects 29 West 17th Street, 4th flr New York, NY 10011 212.822.3200

Structural Engineer: Severud Associates 469 Seventh Avenue New York, NY 10018 (212) 986-3700

MEP Engineer Rodkin Cardinale Consulting Engineers, P.C. 224 W 29th Street, 4th floor New York, NY 10001 (212) 239-1892

Civil Engineer
AKRF Engineering, PC
440 Park Avenue South, 7th floor
New York, NY 10016
(212) 696-0670
(646) 388-9515

#### SOE/Geotech

GeoDesign, Inc. 60 Park Place, Suite 302 Newark, NJ 07102 (973) 803-4515 ext: 101 (347) 466-2680

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1618 FULTON STREET Brooklyn, New York

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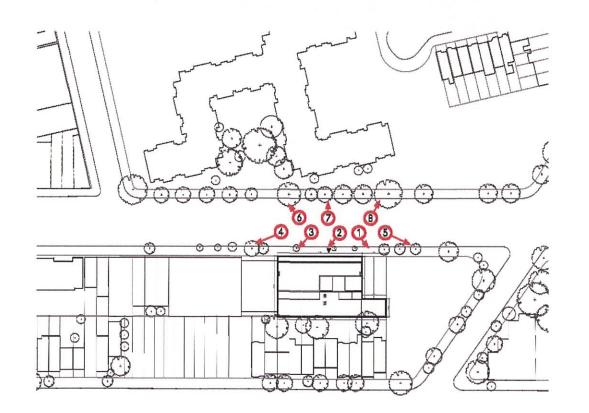
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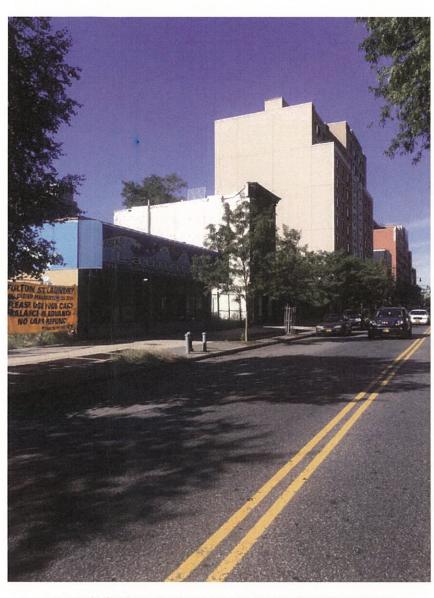
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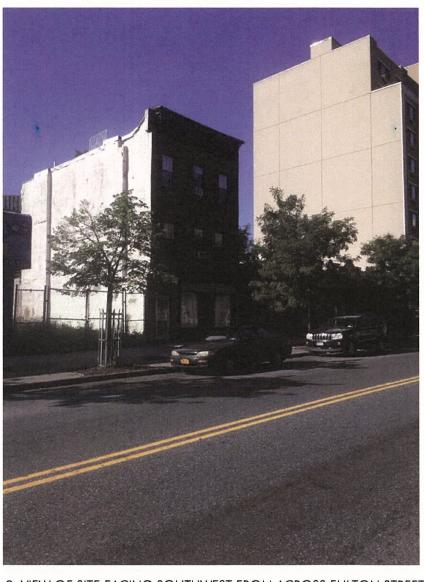


1. VIEW OF EDGE OF SITE FACING SOUTHEAST FROM ACROSS FULTON STREET





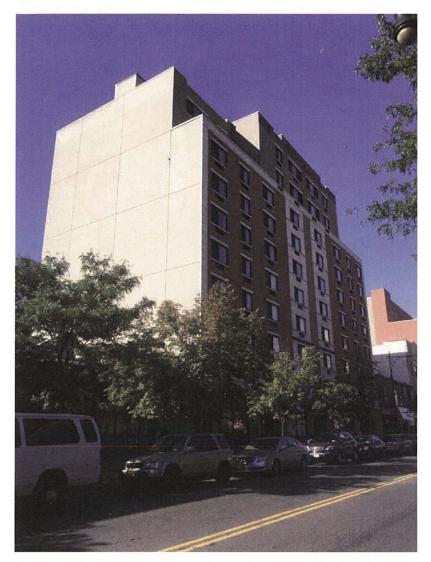
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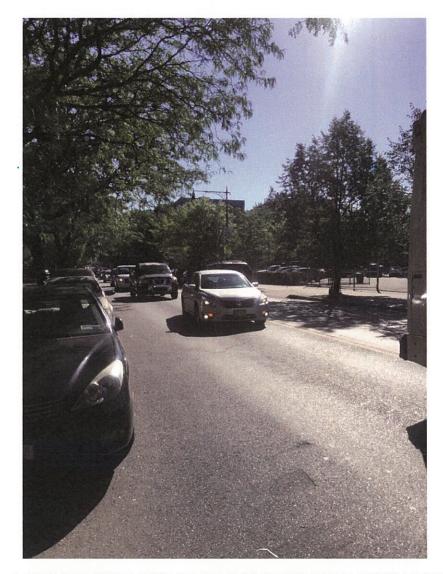
3. VIEW OF SITE FACING SOUTHWEST FROM ACROSS FULTON STREET

## 1618 FULTON STREET

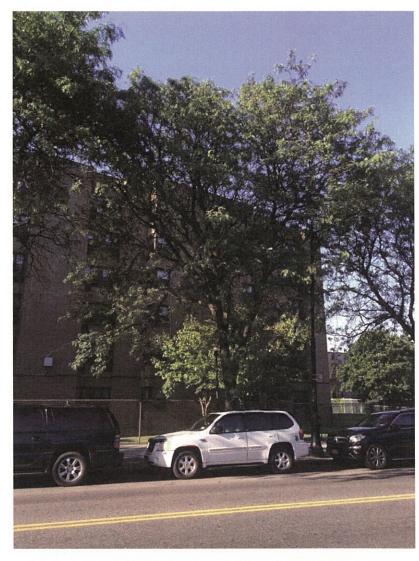
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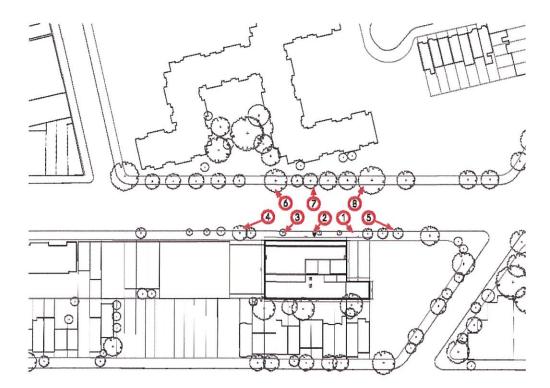
4. VIEW OF WESTERN EDGE OF SITE FACING WEST DOWN FULTON STREET



5. VIEW OF EASTERN EDGE OF SITE FACING EAST DOWN FULTON STREET



6. VIEW OPPOSITE SITE FACING NORTHWEST



1618 FULTON STREET

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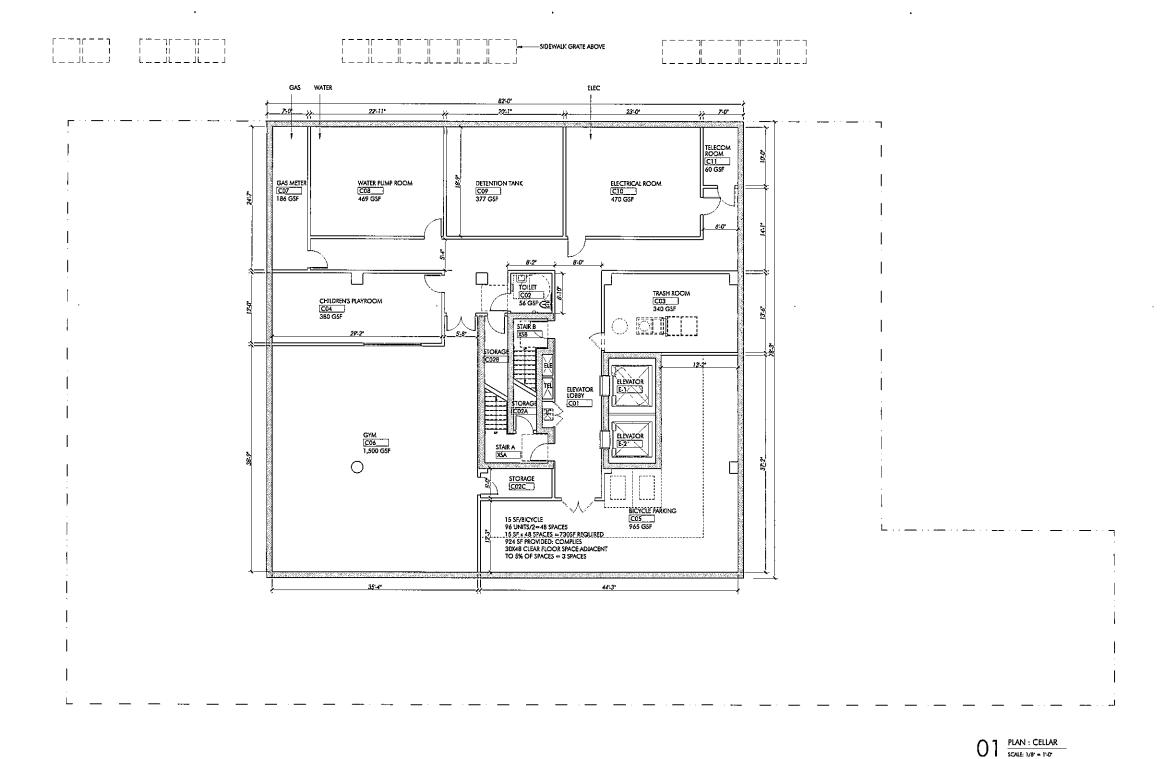
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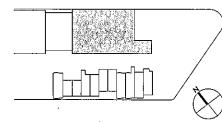
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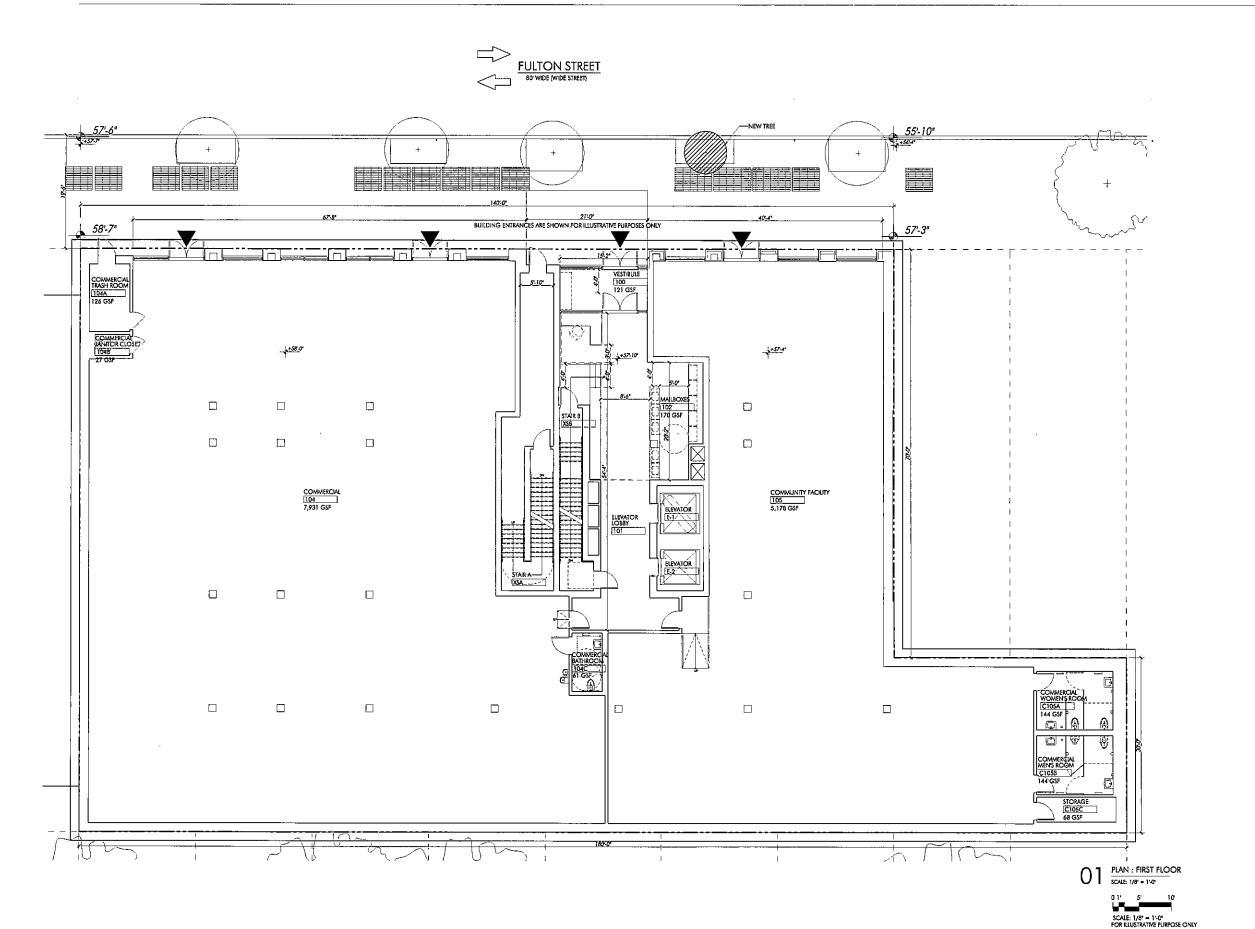
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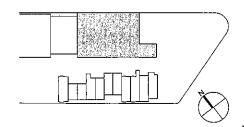
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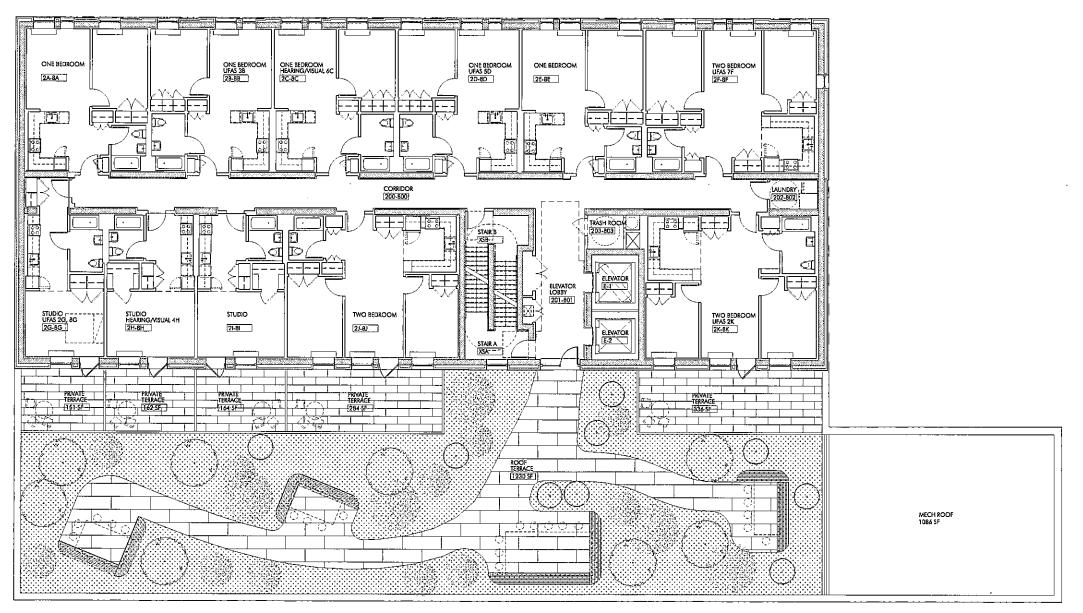
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440 Park Avenue South, 7th floor
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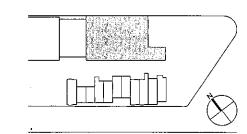
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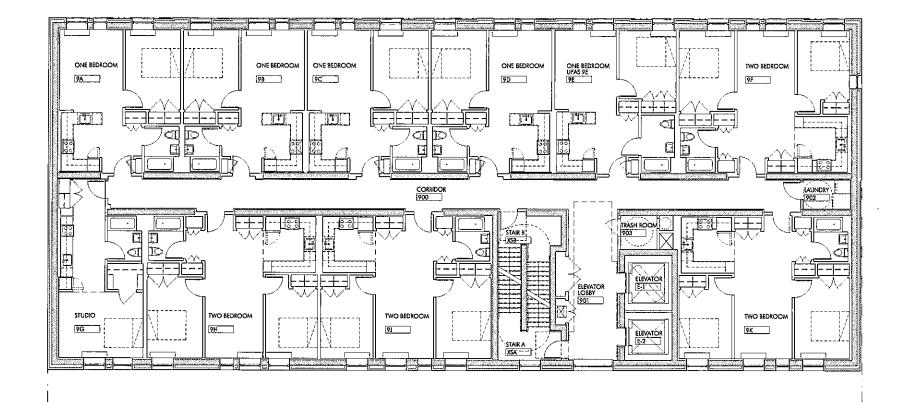
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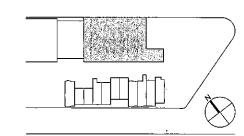
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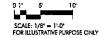
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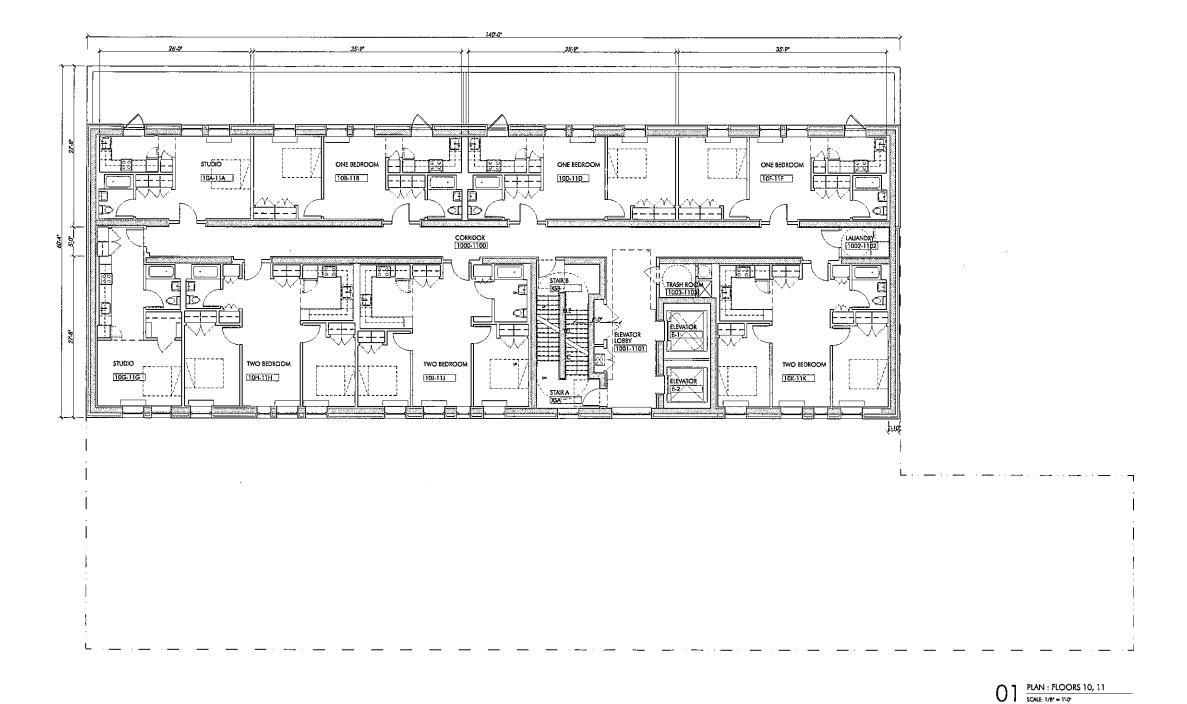
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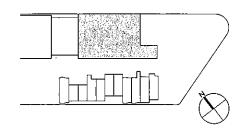
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# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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in favor in opposition
Date: 2/21/17
Name: MARK GORDON
Address: 472 E 16h ST. BROOKLYN NY 1 1226
I represent: SOVA ARCHITECTS SMP
Address: 2729 W 17 ST. NYC 16011
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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Appearance Card LU0728247
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Date: 5/21/19
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# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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Name: CLCIVIA KUSMINER
Address:
I represent: NVCEDC
Address: 110 WILLIAM ST
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Name: ERICH BALAI
Address:
I represent: NICEDC
Address: 10 William St
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# THE COUNCIL 12 GHA St. Bus THE CITY OF NEW YORK DEPOT

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in favor in opposition	
Date: 8   2   1   1	
Name: OVOUD YESS	
Address: 100 Gold St	
I represent: HPA	
Address:	
Please complete THE COUNCIL Sergeant at Arms	
THE CITY OF NEW YORK polyclinic	ež.
Appearance Card	
intend to appear and speak on Int. No Res. No	
in favor in opposition	
(PLEASE PRINT)	
Name: Jordan Press Exac Director	
Address: 1000/d St	
represent:	
Address:	

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms