

CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10**  
215 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor—New York, NY 10027  
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**HENRIETTA LYLE**  
Chairperson

**ANDREW LASSALLE**  
District Manager

May 27, 2015

Ms. Vicki Been  
Commissioner  
New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development  
100 Gold Street  
New York, NY 10038

Re: **Electric Ladybug Community Garden** (West 111<sup>th</sup> Street, Block 1827, Lot 14),  
**Harlem Valley Community Garden** (West 134<sup>th</sup> Street, Block 1919, Lot 5) and  
**Harlem Grown Greenhouse** (West 134<sup>th</sup> Street, Block 1918, Lot 51)

Dear Commissioner Been,

Manhattan Community Board 10 is writing this letter in support of the preservation of three active community gardens in CB10 that are in peril of closure due to the recent New Infill Home Ownership Opportunities Program (NIHOP) and Neighborhood Construction Program (NCP) RFQs. The three affected and active gardens in CB10 are:

<i>Electric Ladybug Community Garden</i>	<i>West 111<sup>th</sup> Street</i>	<i>Block 1827</i>	<i>Lot 14</i>
<i>Harlem Valley Community Garden</i>	<i>West 134<sup>th</sup> Street</i>	<i>Block 1919</i>	<i>Lot 5</i>
<i>Harlem Grown Greenhouse</i>	<i>West 134<sup>th</sup> Street</i>	<i>Block 1918</i>	<i>Lot 51</i>

There is an extremely significant outpouring of support for these three community gardens from the residents of CB10. Thousands of signatures of support have been collected to substantiate the public sentiment around this dire concern. Representatives of these gardens and NYC Parks Green Thumb have presented the issue numerous times before the Parks and Recreation and Land Use/Landmarks Committees and have also presented to the full Board.

Manhattan CB10 is in support of preservation of these three active Community Gardens. Their closure would result in a loss of community green space, which unlike parks, provides for gardening and associated activities designed to enrich and strengthen local CB10 neighborhoods. In addition, these gardens are assets that serve as active sites for food collection, and organic waste composting. They serve as a vital component to the health and welfare of the CB10 community.

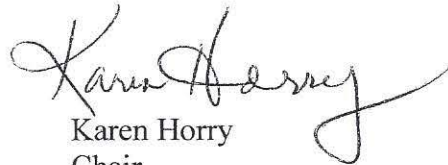
Although, CB 10 is fully in support of the HPD stipulation that these gardens must substantiate that they are of full understanding and in agreement with any restrictions that might be imposed by HPD concerning the use of the space and that HPD maintains the right to re-acquire the space, we are hoping that HPD will re-consider the circumstances in view of the overwhelming community support of these three flourishing gardens.

Manhattan CB10 strongly urges you to direct HPD to remove these sites from its most recent list of developable sites. We have been told that HPD has numerous potential sites on which it can develop affordable housing. It is our recommendation that sites that are truly under-utilized be prioritized over those that are actively being used.

Sincerely,



Henrietta Lyle  
Chairperson  
Manhattan Community Board 10



Karen Horry  
Chair  
Parks and Recreation Committee



Brian Benjamin  
Chair  
Land Use Committee



Barbara Nelson  
Chair  
Housing Committee



cc: Mayor Bill de Blasio  
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Mark Levine, NYC Council, Chair, Parks and Recreation Committee  
Hon. Antonio Reynoso, NYC Council, Chair, Sanitation Committee  
Hon. Inez Dickens, NYC Council, District 9  
Hon. Bill Perkins, NY State Senator  
Hon. Keith Wright, NY State Assembly Member  
Nancy Kohn, Executive Director, NYC Parks Green Thumb  
Mitchell J. Silver, Commissioner, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation