Carter Booth, *Chair*
Daniel Miller, *First Vice Chair*
Susan Kent, *Second Vice Chair*
Bob Gormley, *District Manager*

Antony Wong, *Treasurer*
Valerie De La Rosa, *Secretary*
Amy Brenna, *Assistant Secretary*

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN
3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE
NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899
www.cb2manhattan.org
P: 212-979-2272 F: 212-254-5102 E: info@cb2manhattan.org
Greenwich Village ❖ Little Italy ❖ SoHo ❖ NoHo ❖ Hudson Square ❖ Chinatown ❖ Gansevoort Market

February 25, 2021

Hon. Corey Johnson
Speaker
New York City Council
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Fernando Cabrera
Chair
Committee on Government Operations
New York City Council
250 Broadway, Room 1725
New York, NY 10007

Dear Speaker Johnson and Chairperson Cabrera::

At its Full Board meeting on February 18, 2021, CB#2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.), adopted the following resolution:

New York City Council Intro 2186-2020: A local law to amend the New York City charter, in relation to requiring a comprehensive long-term plan. This bill would create a ten-year comprehensive planning cycle connecting budget, land use, and strategic planning processes. The cycle would include a review of City conditions, including racial and socio-economic disparities, access to opportunity, displacement risk, short- and long- term risks, impacts of prior development and budget decisions, and current and projected infrastructure needs. A Citywide Goals Statement would set targets for housing, jobs, open space, resiliency infrastructure, City facilities, schools, transportation, public utilities, and other infrastructure.

Whereas:

1. On December 16th, 2020, with little publicity and no circulation to the public or community boards, New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson released a document entitled **Planning Together: A New Comprehensive Planning Framework for New York City,** followed by **Bill 2186-2020,** introduced in the City Council on December 17, 2020.

2. This bill is now being fast-tracked to the February 23, 2021 meeting of City Council Committee on Government Operations, to be voted on by the City Council as early as March, with insufficient input at the community-board level—especially in light of the need to continue with Zoom-only meetings.

3. This is in stark contrast to the lengthy educational process undertaken by the 2019 Charter Revision Commission, whose slogan was "You Can Vote On That."

4. Adoption of the long term comprehensive plan as it is now written would result in major changes to the public review process that are not fully understood at this time.

5. This would add a completely new layer of bureaucracy to a city that is already facing severe and unprecedented budget constraints.

6. Implementation would require resources—both economic and staff—that community boards do not currently have, in order for them to be able to participate in this complex and lengthy process.

Therefore be it resolved that Community Board 2 strongly and unequivocally recommends that City Council's plan to vote on Intro 2186 as early as March be delayed until there has been time for truly extensive outreach to, and dialogue with, community boards and related stakeholders.

Be it further resolved that no public hearings or reviews on the part of the City Council be held on Intro 2186 until there have been public presentations by the council members or their surrogates, to community boards and other stakeholders so that there is a comprehensive understanding of the details of and basic underlying reasoning for the changes.

Be it finally resolved that this fundamental change to New York City land use procedures and processes, which requires a City Charter modification, be treated as the 2019 Charter revisions; that is, with city-wide, open hearings, public feedback opportunities.

Vote: Passed unanimously with 44 Board members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

Carter Booth, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

Frederica Sigel
Land Use & Housing Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

CB/JT

c: Hon. Jerrold Nadler, U.S. Representative

Hon. Carolyn Maloney, U.S. Representative
Hon. Nydia Velazquez, U.S. Representative
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NYS Senator
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NYS Senator
Hon. Deborah Glick, NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Yuh-Line Niou, NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Margaret Chin, NYC Council Member
Hon. Carlina Rivera, NYC Council Member