

MARCH 2006 UPTOWN NY STATEMENT

- A. I represent CIVITAS, a volunteer, community organization, concerned with zoning, land use, transportation, affordable housing and related planning issues in East Harlem and the Upper East Side.
- B. Since the first announcement of the Uptown NY project in 2005 CIVITAS has had the following concerns:
 - 1. overall size of the project
 - 2. excessive height of some of the projected buildings
 - 3. need for contextual zoning to insure that height, among other factors, fits in with the surrounding neighborhood
 - 4. excessive number of planned parking spaces (residential and commercial) – 1,000
 - 5. pollution and traffic congestion caused by underground parking garage for 80 MTA buses
 - 6. impact of proposed development on existing traffic congestion at 125th Street and 2nd Avenue and at 125th Street and 3rd Avenue
 - 7. need to encourage small to mid-size business, not big box stores
 - 8. absence of information or assurances with respect to the amount and kind of affordable housing to be accommodated
- C. We urge the Task Force, the Council Person and the Borough President to bear these concerns in mind in their review and negotiations with respect to Uptown NY.