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ASSOCIATION *for*
OLMSTED
PARKS

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July 27, 2021

City Planning Commission
31st Floor
120 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10271

Dear City Planning Commission:

The National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP) opposes changes to zoning rules that would threaten the landscape and plant collections of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG). The BBG is a world-renowned treasure, designed by the Olmsted Brothers Firm starting in 1910 ([Project No. 03960](#)), whose scenery and diverse resources have been serving Brooklyn and the broader community for over 100 years.

Existing zoning rules for low-rise buildings protect the conservatories, greenhouses and nurseries where plants are grown for the entire BBG. However, developers now seek to have zoning rules changed to allow a new building complex with 34-story towers that would block as much as three hours of sunlight daily in spring, summer and fall. The proposed development is less than 300 feet from the BBG structures and just 150 feet from the garden, and would cause lasting damage to the site and its collections.

We oppose any zoning change and respectfully ask the Planning Commission to put an end to this request. The existing zoning restriction, which has protected the BBG by capping building height since 1991, should be affirmed.

As Frederick Law Olmsted and the Olmsted Brothers understood, parks and landscapes are essential to our social, physical and mental well-being. This has surely been borne out during the pandemic when Olmsted landscapes proved essential places for respite and restoration.

At a time when so many individuals – young and old – have little access to nature, it would be tragic for the city to permit a misplaced

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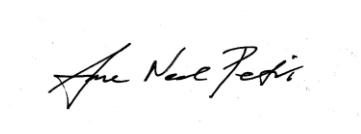
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high-rise development to damage a national, indeed global, resource whose research and educational activities are essential to understanding ecological challenges facing all of us.

Please reject the application for zoning change and reinforce building height restrictions that protect the scenic, cultural, and environmental benefits of this great institution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Neal Petri". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a faint, light-colored rectangular border.

Anne Neal Petri
President and CEO

The National Association for Olmsted Parks is the only national organization dedicated to protecting and preserving the life, leadership and legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted. NAOP is serving as the Managing Partner of Olmsted 200, the celebration in 2022 of the bicentennial of Olmsted's birth, www.olmsted200.org. Olmsted and his successor firms designed thousands of exceptional landscape projects across the country, including the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. NAOP's Olmsted Network includes more than 60 friends groups and conservancies around the country dedicated to protecting Olmsted parks and landscapes.