



August 20, 2024

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

Re: 962-972 Franklin Avenue Rezoning Proposal

Dear City Planning Commission:

In 2021, the Olmsted Network, then known as the National Association for Olmsted Parks, [opposed proposed changes](#) to zoning rules that would have allowed high-rise development to threaten the landscape and plant collections of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG). At that time, the Commission commendably rejected the proposed changes.

We ask the Commission to reject similar proposals before it now.

The BBG is a world-renowned treasure, designed by the Olmsted Brothers firm starting in 1910 (Project No. 03960). Its scenery and diverse resources have been serving Brooklyn and the broader community for over 100 years.

Existing zoning rules — limiting high-rise development to seven stories— explicitly and consciously protect the conservatories, greenhouses and nurseries where plants are grown for the entire BBG. They were adopted to respect and protect the great asset that it serves as Brooklyn's Garden. They remain as important and applicable today as they were when first adopted in 1991.

The existing zoning restriction, which has protected the BBG by capping building height and the shadows that would irreparably damage its living collections, should be affirmed. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Neal Petri". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anne Neal Petri
President and CEO

The Olmsted Network champions Olmsted parks and landscapes across the nation through advocacy, education and stewardship. Our network includes Birkenhead Park, Liverpool; Biltmore Estate and Gardens, Asheville, NC; Bok Tower Gardens, Lake Wales, FL; Emerald Necklace Conservancy, Boston; Washington Park, Milwaukee; Olmsted Parks, Louisville; and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. For more information, www.olmsted.org.