

NEW YORKERS FOR A HUMAN SCALE CITY DOWNTOWN INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS SUPPORT

We call upon the Mayor and the City Council to prioritize and develop zoning changes, height restrictions, demolition moratoria, strengthened environmental review processes, and to implement regulatory reforms and laws to guide future development towards a human-scaled future – one that protects rather than destroys New York’s historic fabric.

We ask that appointees to regulatory bodies be free of ties to the real estate industry and that the revolving door between regulatory agencies and the real estate industry be shut. We call for widespread public debate and referenda on these policies and discussion as to what kind of planning is needed to realize a human-scaled city.

The Downtown Independent Democrats will field candidates for all offices on their stance and willingness to challenge the power and influence that the real estate lobby has accrued within our government and their campaign contribution sources.

Furthermore, this City administration promised that the old-boy network top-down approach to development and large-scale projects in our neighborhoods would henceforth be a bottom-up approach, involving local groups and Community Boards in dialogue and planning at the outset as it should be.

Instead the top-down approach is even worse than before, with projects and zoning decisions being ‘done deals’ before the local community is told and little or no consultation on planning at the local level.

The local community groups are being given short shrift and their opinions summarily dismissed at City Planning, the Board of Standard & Appeals, the Economic Development Corporation, and with other City & State Agencies.

Large campaign real-estate contributors are being given carte-blanche over the future construction and destruction of our communities. We call on the Mayor and City Council to get their hands out of the real estate pockets and back into their local communities and support reasonable and appropriate development for our neighborhoods.

Downtown Independent Democrats
Unanimous
November 15, 2015
