

SUPPORT TO PRESERVE ELIZABETH STREET GARDEN & CREATE
SIGNIFICANTLY MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT 388 HUDSON ST.

Resolution in support of preserving Elizabeth Street Garden in its entirety and creating significantly more affordable housing at 388 Hudson Street.

Whereas: affordable housing is of vital importance to Downtown Independent Democrats and the area we serve which includes both Little Italy and Greenwich Village, and

Whereas: both affordability and access to large, green open spaces are essential to the livability and sustainability of neighborhoods, and

Whereas: Little Italy is severely underserved by open space and is part of the only downtown Manhattan neighborhood that the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation defines as “underserved” by open space, and

Whereas: 388 Hudson Street is both across the street from and down the block from large park spaces, while Elizabeth Street Garden is the only green open space in all of Little Italy and SoHo, and

Whereas: Community Board No. 2, Manhattan has been promised a park at 388 Hudson, which they have long fought for and greatly desire, but the Board has passed a resolution stating that they are willing to forego a park at that site ONLY IF Elizabeth Street Garden is preserved in its entirety, and

Whereas: in no case can both the Elizabeth Street Garden and 388 Hudson Street sites be developed for affordable housing – it is only one or the other, and

Whereas: the 388 Hudson Street site can accommodate almost five times as much affordable housing as the Elizabeth Street Garden site, and

Whereas: a successful swap of an open space site for a better affordable housing site was recently done by Councilmember Corey Johnson, moving the housing to a site farther than the distance between Elizabeth Street Garden and 388 Hudson St., and

Whereas: preference for a significant percentage of the first rent-up of housing is determined by Community Board boundaries, not by Council Districts, and

Whereas: having five times as much affordable housing at 388 Hudson will serve on average of five times more residents in Little Italy than would be served by developing a lower number of units on Elizabeth Street Garden, and

Therefore Be It Resolved: Downtown Independent Democrats supports the preservation of Elizabeth Street Garden in its entirety as public open, green space, with the potential affordable housing moved to 388 Hudson Street where more affordable housing can be built without destroying a cherished green open space, and

Be it Further Resolved: Downtown Independent Democrats calls upon Councilmembers Chin and Johnson to work together to effect this swap to the benefit of both their districts.