

DISTRICT OFFICE
165 PARK ROW, SUITE 11
NEW YORK, NY 10038
(212) 587-3159
FAX: (212) 587-3138

CITY HALL OFFICE
250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1882
NEW YORK, NY 10007
(212) 788-7259
chin@council.nyc.gov



THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MARGARET S. CHIN
COUNCIL MEMBER, 1ST DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

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June 26, 2014

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg,

I write to you regarding the Department of Transportation parking lot on Ludlow Street, between Delancey and Rivington Streets. This lot was originally identified as Site #7 of the Seward Park Urban Renewal Area, but was not part of the group of City-owned lots that the Economic Development Corporation included in the ULURP application.

In 2012, it was conveyed to my office by the Bloomberg Administration that DOT did not want to explore the development potential of this Ludlow Street lot, and did not want to remove it from the Department's portfolio.

Now, with a new administration in office, I would like to know if DOT's position remains the same regarding this site. My reason for raising the question is that I believe the Ludlow Street lot continues to present a great opportunity for the development of affordable housing.

With the recent release of Mayor de Blasio's 10-year plan to build and preserve 200,000 units of affordable housing across the city, I believe we must consider taking advantage of any site that could be appropriate for that purpose.

According to analysis completed by the City Council's Land Use Division, DOT's Ludlow Street parking lot — which is technically listed as 112 Ludlow Street — has the potential to yield up to 89,200 square feet in as-of-right residential development. According to the same analysis, a development of that size could provide approximately 90 units of affordable housing.

Like many others across the city, our Lower Manhattan community has an urgent need for more affordable housing, and I am very interested in exploring the possibility of such a development at this Ludlow Street site. My office and I would be happy to work closely with DOT and Community Board 3 to discuss that possibility, and to work collaboratively with local stakeholders on any potential development plans.

Thank you for considering this alternative use for the site, and I look forward to discussing the matter with you.

Sincerely,

Margaret S. Chin

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret S. Chin".

CC: Margaret Forgiione, NYC DOT Manhattan Borough Commissioner
Alicia Glen, Deputy Mayor for Housing and Economic Development
Gigi Li, Community Board 3 Chair