



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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CICELY HARRIS
Chairperson

ANDREW LASSALLE
District Manager

October 10, 2017

Arielle Goldberg
Director of Land Use and Policy
New York Housing Preservation and Development
100 Gold Street, Room 9X Area
New York, NY 10038

Re: Mandela Community Garden – 263.265.267 West 126th Street Block 1932,
Lot 5, 7, 107, Manhattan

Dear Ms. Goldberg:

Manhattan Community Board 10 has received a request for assistance and support from the operators of the Nelson Mandela Community Garden (“Mandela Garden”) regarding a recent letter they received from you (see copy of that letter attached). As stated in your letter, we all agree that the controlling regulation regarding the relocation of GreenThumb community gardens (as referenced in your letter) is Chapter 42 of Title 28 of the Rules of the City of New York. The concern the Nelson Mandela Community Garden has, as shared with our Community Board, is that this regulation (and the requisite options associated with it), as indicated below in detail, is not being followed in regards to this relocation effort:

The following are our respective concerns:

1. “Alternate Site List” – The Regulation (Option 1):

“Alternate Site List.”

Either (i) a list of available City-owned vacant land within one-half mile of the Lot upon which an existing Garden is located, including the address, block and lot, and approximate size of each parcel of land contained therein;

Nelson Mandela Community Garden/CB 10 Response: The three (3) alternate sites offered to Mandela Garden for consideration (see list below) are not “vacant, City-owned land located within one-half (1/2) mile of their “GreenThumb garden location but rather occupied, pre-existing gardens which cannot accommodate Mandela Garden as the square footage of all three (3) lots listed does not come close to their current foot-print.

AVAILABLE VACANT CITY-OWNED LAND LOCATED WITHIN ½ MILE OF THE
GREENTHUMB GARDEN LOCATED AT BLOCK 1932 LOTS 5, 7, 107 AND KNOWN AS
MANDELA COMMUNITY GARDEN

<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Approximate Size (In Square Feet)</u>
1953	28*	303 West 126 th Street	2,498 sq. ft.
1953	122*	323 West 126 th Street	1,240 sq. ft.
1953	44*	330 Saint Nicholas Avenue	1,596 sq. ft.

*This is a GreenThumb garden that can accommodate other participants.

2. "Alternate Site List" – The Regulation (Option 2):

(ii) where there is no such available City-owned vacant land within one half mile of such Lot, a list of available City-owned vacant land within the community district in which such Lot is located, including the address, block and lot, and approximate size of each parcel of land contained therein;

Nelson Mandela Community Garden/CB 10 Response: Assuming that the three (3) garden sites offered are the only City-owned sites within ½ mile (which the Garden does not concede) the Mandela Community Garden has not been offered or provided with a list of City owned vacant land not within one-half mile of their garden but within the district where their garden is located.

3. "Alternate Site List" – The Regulation (Option 3):

or (iii) a statement that there is no available City-owned vacant land within either one half mile of such Lot or within the community district in which such Lot is located.

Nelson Mandela Community Garden/CB 10 Response: No such statement has been given to the Mandela Garden which creates the presumption that such City-owned vacant land does exist within the community district in which it is located.

On the basis of the above, and because Community Board 10 understands and acknowledges the importance of existing community gardens within our community in general, and the value of the Nelson Mandela Community Garden in particular, we respectfully request that your office review this determination with respect to compliance to procedure per Chapter 42 Title 28 in exploring options for their relocation. Our District Office would be happy to be of whatever assistance you would welcome.

Respectfully yours,



Andrew Lassalle
District Manager
Manhattan Community Board 10

Cc: William LoSasso, Green Thumb Program