July 1, 2015

Mitchell Silver
Commissioner
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY, 10065

Re: 237 Maple Street

Dear Commissioner Silver:

I write today to request that the Department of Parks & Recreation initiate a Uniform Land Use Review Process (ULURP) to acquire 237 Maple Street (Block 5030, Lot 72) in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Prospect Lefferts Gardens. From 1999 to 2012, the location sat vacant and became a de facto dumping ground for trash. It remained like this until 2013, when a group of neighbors saw the problem as an opportunity to revitalize the lot into what has now become the Maple Street Community Garden. As a result, 237 Maple Street has become a community gathering space for new and old residents alike.

Prospect Lefferts Gardens is currently undergoing rapid gentrification and the owners of the lot, Housing Urban Development, LLC, who until now have expressed little interest in maintaining the lot, see the garden only in dollar signs.

I believe that this garden must remain open to the public, and I am willing to commit a portion of my FY 17 capital budget funding to acquire the parcel and ensure it permanently remains an active community garden and space.

I look forward to your response and working together to ensure that Prospect Lefferts Gardens, a neighborhood with a dearth of open space, can continue to rally around the Maple Street Community Garden and the important community space it has become. Please feel free to contact my Director of Land Use, Richard Bearak, at rbearak@brooklynbp.nyc.gov, or 718.802.4057, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Eric L. Adams
Brooklyn Borough President

ELA/r1

Cc. Department of Parks & Recreation Brooklyn Borough Commissioner, Kevin Jeffre
Tom LaFarge and Julia Stanat, Maple Street Community Garden