

Greenwich Village Block Associations

20 Bank Street, New York, NY 10014

Bedford, Barrow & Commerce
Bedford Downing
Bleecker Area Merchants & Residents
Carmine Street
Central Village
Charlton Street
Christopher Street Block & Merchants
Christopher Street East
East 8th/9th Street
East 10th Street
East 11th Street
East 12th/13th Street
Far West Bank Street
Far West 10th Street
Grove Street
Horatio Street
Jane Street
MacDougal Alley Assoc.
MacDougal Street North
Mercer Street
Minetta
Morton Street
Mulry Angle/W. 11th Street
Perry Street
St. Luke's Place
Upper West 13th Street
Washington Place
Washington Sq/
Lower 5th Ave
Waverly
Waverly-Bank 11 Neighbors
West Houston Street
West Eighth Street
West 9th Street
West 10th Street
West 12th Street
West 13th Street -100 Block

February 25, 2008
Henry Amoroso
President and Chief Executive Officer
St. Vincent Hospital
170 West 12th Street
New York, NY 10011
Dear Mr. Amoroso,

As the umbrella group for the block associations of Greenwich Village, the Greenwich Village Block Associations (GVBA) finds it necessary to clarify its position regarding the current St. Vincent Hospital/Rudin Company proposal for the building of a new hospital and a large residential development. The community has made a substantial good faith effort to support St. Vincent Hospital (SVH), so much so, that it has allowed itself to be pushed farther along in the discussion than is appropriate at this juncture. **Indeed, the community has a responsibility to evaluate the existing buildings of the SVH campus and discuss which, if any, contribute to the Greenwich Village Historic District and warrant preservation, not demolition.**

St. Vincent Hospital (SVH) is conducting an extensive public relations campaign that ignores the necessity of this discussion and encourages the myth that there is community opposition to improving the hospital. The GVBA supports the concept of an up-to-date medical facility and does not oppose the size of the "new" SVH. We oppose its proposed configuration and the unprecedented magnitude of the project as it includes the massive Rudin residential complex.

We understand, however, that SVH is drumming up support outside the Historic District among people who have an interest in access to the latest medical treatment, but little comprehension or concern about the drastic impact this development would have upon the integrity of Greenwich Village. Unless interested parties appreciate the preservation issues involved, their support is uninformed and non-productive.

Last fall, as a result of a SVH/Rudin presentation, the *New York Sun* wrote a misinformed, mean spirited editorial mischaracterizing the nature and intent of the Hospital's neighbors and ignoring relevant aspects of the issue. SVH consented to write a rebuttal. If it did so, the response was not printed in *the Sun* or publicly circulated. Although SVH admitted no responsibility for the editorial, an unfortunate pattern of evasion and misdirection is emerging.

SVH appears to be garnering support by simplifying the discussion, obfuscating complex issues and drawing upon sentiment engendered by its own history in Greenwich Village without reciprocal regard for the Greenwich Village Historic District. Unlike SVH, the Greenwich Village Historic District cannot move elsewhere. Since SVH is soliciting support for a new hospital in communities that it may serve, but that may not be sensitive to the restrictions that SVH should respect if it reconstitutes itself below Fourteenth Street, St. Vincent Hospital may inadvertently be building a case and a constituency for its relocation. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Marilyn Dorato
Executive Director

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www.gvba.org