



October 12, 2021

New York City Council
New York, New York

Testimony re: Cooper Park Commons

I am testifying on behalf of Friends of Cooper Park (FOCP), a community organization focused on advocacy and stewardship of the park directly across the street from the proposed development, Cooper Park Commons.

Cooper Park is a very heavily-used and beloved neighborhood park. Alongside other organizations in the area, and as a part of GREC, FOCP has been requesting safety improvements to the streets in the neighborhood for many, many years. With Carrig Montessori school on Olive Street, the Open Street on Sharon, and the many children and families on Maspeth, at Cooper Park Houses, and in our neighborhood generally, we deserve streets that de-prioritize moving cars and instead support our safety and a healthy environment.

With the redevelopment of the hospital, and the addition of hundreds of new households to the neighborhood, we request that the New York City Council demand a firm commitment from the NYC DOT as part of any approval, to address and remedy our longstanding traffic concerns. In particular:

- Safety improvements and a traffic signal at the corner of Olive Street and Maspeth at the corner of Cooper Park
- Safety improvements and a traffic signal at the corner of Kingsland and Maspeth
- Traffic calming on Kingsland Avenue
- Traffic calming on Maspeth Avenue
- A comprehensive redesign of the treacherous intersection where Woodpoint meets Conselyea, Maspeth, and Bushwick.

In addition, while any amount of new public open space will be welcomed by our community, the northwest corner of the site plan (by Kingsland and Jackson) is dominated by a proposed new driveway and surface parking which takes up a significant amount of space. This could be an opportunity to weave even more generous pedestrian and green space into the development. Safe streets and access to public space are essential for the many families that visit Cooper



Park in our growing residential community. We urge the City Council to see that these concerns are addressed as part of any large-scale rezoning.

Sincerely,
Paul Kelterborn
Friends of Cooper Park