

Honorable Corey Johnson
Speaker of the Council
City Hall
New York, New York 10007
Attention: Jonathan Ettricks

December 6, 2021

Re: 250 West HDFC.HPO.FY22
Block 1831, Lot 56
Manhattan, Community District No. 10
Council District No. 9

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The referenced property (“Exemption Area”) contains one multiple dwelling known as 250 West HDFC.HPO.FY22 which provides rental housing for low income families.

Under the proposed project, 250 West Housing Development Fund Corporation (“HDFC”) will acquire the Exemption Area and 250 West Partners LLC (“Company”) will be the beneficial owner and will operate the Exemption Area. The HDFC and the Company (collectively, “Owner”) will finance the acquisition and rehabilitation of the Exemption Area with a loan from the New York City Housing Development Corporation (“HDC”). The Owner, HPD and HDC will enter into a regulatory agreement establishing certain controls upon the operation of the Exemption Area.

The Exemption Area currently receives an exemption from real property taxation pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 421-a (“RPTL Section 421-a”) that will expire in 2033 (“Prior Exemption”). In accordance with RPTL Section 421-a(2)(j) and in order to facilitate the project, HPD will authorize the termination of the Prior Exemption so that it may be replaced with a new exemption from real property taxation pursuant to the Private Housing Finance Law.

HPD respectfully requests that the Council approve, pursuant to Section 577 of the Private Housing Finance Law, an exemption from real property taxation as follows:

1. For the purposes hereof, the following terms shall have the following meanings:
 - a. “Company” shall mean 250 West Partners LLC or any other entity that acquires the beneficial interest in the Exemption Area with the prior written consent of HPD.
 - b. “Effective Date” shall mean the later of (i) the date of the conveyance of the Exemption Area to the HDFC, or (ii) July 1, 2029.
 - c. “Exemption Area” shall mean the real property located in the Borough of Manhattan, City and State of New York, identified as Block 1831, Lot 56 on the Tax Map of the City of New York.



- d. "Expiration Date" shall mean the earlier to occur of (i) a date which is thirty-two (32) years from the Effective Date, (ii) the date of the expiration or termination of the Regulatory Agreement, or (iii) the date upon which the Exemption Area ceases to be owned by either a housing development fund company or an entity wholly controlled by a housing development fund company.
 - e. "Gross Rent" shall mean the gross potential rents from all residential, commercial, and community facility units on the Exemption Area without regard to whether such units are occupied or vacant, including, but not limited to, Section 8, rent supplements, rental assistance, or any other subsidy.
 - f. "Gross Rent Deadline" shall mean three hundred and sixty-five (365) days from the date of the HPD letter requesting the information that HPD needs to calculate the Gross Rent Tax for the applicable tax year.
 - g. "Gross Rent Tax" shall mean, with respect to any tax year, an amount equal to seven percent (7.0%) of the Gross Rent in such tax year; provided, however, that if the Owner fails to provide the Gross Rent on or before the Gross Rent Deadline, Gross Rent Tax shall mean an amount equal to real property taxes that would otherwise be due in such tax year in the absence of any form of exemption from or abatement of real property taxation.
 - h. "HDC" shall mean the New York City Housing Development Corporation.
 - i. "HDFC" shall mean 250 West Housing Development Fund Corporation or a housing development fund company that acquires the Exemption Area with the prior written consent of HPD.
 - j. "HPD" shall mean the Department of Housing Preservation and Development of the City of New York.
 - k. "New Exemption" shall mean the exemption from real property taxation provided hereunder with respect to the Exemption Area.
 - l. "Owner" shall mean, collectively, the HDFC and the Company.
 - m. "Prior Exemption" shall mean the existing tax exemption of the Exemption Area pursuant to Section 421-a(1-15) of the Real Property Tax Law.
 - n. "Regulatory Agreement" shall mean the regulatory agreement between either (i) HPD and the Owner, or (ii) HPD, HDC and the Owner, that is executed on or after October 1, 2021 and that establishes certain controls upon the operation of the Exemption Area during the term of the New Exemption and provides, *inter alia*, for the termination of the Prior Exemption.
- 2. All of the value of the property in the Exemption Area, including both the land and any improvements (excluding those portions, if any, devoted to business, commercial, or community facility use), shall be exempt from real property taxation, other than assessments for local improvements, for a period commencing upon the Effective Date and terminating upon the Expiration Date.
 - 3. Commencing upon the Effective Date, and during each year thereafter until the Expiration Date, the Owner shall make real property tax payments in the sum of the Gross Rent Tax. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the total annual real property tax payment by the Owner shall not at any time exceed the amount of real property taxes that would otherwise be due in the

absence of any form of exemption from or abatement of real property taxation provided by an existing or future local, state, or federal law, rule, or regulation.

4. Notwithstanding any provision hereof to the contrary:
 - a. The New Exemption shall terminate if HPD determines at any time that (i) the Exemption Area is not being operated in accordance with the requirements of Article XI of the Private Housing Finance Law, (ii) the Exemption Area is not being operated in accordance with the requirements of the Regulatory Agreement, (iii) the Exemption Area is not being operated in accordance with the requirements of any other agreement with, or for the benefit of, the City of New York, (iv) any interest in the Exemption Area is conveyed or transferred to a new owner without the prior written approval of HPD, or (v) the construction or demolition of any private or multiple dwelling on the Exemption Area has commenced without the prior written consent of HPD. HPD shall deliver written notice of any such determination to Owner and all mortgagees of record, which notice shall provide for an opportunity to cure of not less than sixty (60) days. If the noncompliance specified in such notice is not cured within the time period specified therein, the New Exemption shall prospectively terminate.
 - b. The New Exemption shall apply to all land in the Exemption Area, but shall only apply to a building on the Exemption Area that exists on the Effective Date.
 - c. Nothing herein shall entitle the HDFC, the Owner, or any other person or entity to a refund of any real property taxes which accrued and were paid with respect to the Exemption Area prior to the Effective Date.
5. In consideration of the New Exemption, the owner of the Exemption Area shall, for so long as the New Exemption shall remain in effect, waive the benefits of any additional or concurrent exemption from or abatement of real property taxation which may be authorized under any existing or future local, state, or federal law, rule, or regulation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein shall prohibit the granting of any real property tax abatement pursuant to Sections 467-b or 467-c of the Real Property Tax Law to real property occupied by senior citizens or persons with disabilities.

HPD recommends approval of this matter and requests that it be referred to the appropriate committee at the next scheduled meeting of the Council.

Sincerely,



Louise Carroll