



**Department of
Housing Preservation
& Development**

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MARIA TORRES-SPRINGER
Commissioner

Office of the Commissioner
100 Gold Street
New York, NY 10038

April 2, 2018

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

Re: Block 1843, Lots 14, 15, and 16
Manhattan, Community District No. 7
Council District No. 7

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The referenced property ("Exemption Area") contains three multiple dwellings which provide rental housing for low income families.

153 Manhattan Avenue Housing Development Fund Corporation ("Owner") owns and operates the Exemption Area. The Owner will finance the rehabilitation of the Exemption Area with a loan from the Department of Housing Preservation and Development ("HPD"). The Owner and HPD 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 Section 577 of the Private Housing Finance Law that will expire in 2034 ("Prior Exemption"). In order to ensure the continued affordability of the Exemption Area, the Prior Exemption must be terminated and replaced with a new Article XI exemption for the Exemption Area.

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. "Effective Date" shall mean the date that HPD and the Owner enter into the Regulatory Agreement.
 - b. "Exemption Area" shall mean the real property located in the Borough of Manhattan, City and State of New York, identified as Block 1843, Lots 14, 15, and 16 on the Tax Map of the City of New York.
 - c. "Expiration Date" shall mean the earlier to occur of (i) a date which is forty (40) 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.
 - d. "Gross Rent" shall mean the gross potential rents from all residential and commercial units (both occupied and vacant) of the Exemption Area, including any federal subsidy (including, but not limited to, Section 8, rent supplements, and rental assistance).
 - e. "Gross Rent Tax" shall mean an amount equal to one percent (1%) of the Gross Rent in the tax year in which such real property tax payment is made.



- f. "HDFC" shall mean 153 Manhattan Avenue Housing Development Fund Corporation or a housing development fund company that acquires the Exemption Area with the prior written consent of HPD.
 - g. "HPD" shall mean the Department of Housing Preservation and Development of the City of New York.
 - h. "New Exemption" shall mean the exemption from real property taxation provided hereunder with respect to the Exemption Area.
 - i. "Owner" shall mean the HDFC.
 - j. "Prior Exemption" shall mean the exemption from real property taxation for the Exemption Area approved by the New York City Council on July 24, 2013 (Resolution No. 1872-2013).
 - k. "Regulatory Agreement" shall mean the regulatory agreement between HPD and the Owner establishing certain controls upon the operating of the Exemption Area during the term of the New Exemption.
2. The Prior Exemption shall terminate upon the Effective Date.
 3. 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.
 4. 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.
 5. 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 buildings on the Exemption Area that exist on the Effective Date.
 - c. Nothing herein shall entitle the HDFC, the Owner, or any past owner to a refund of any real property taxes which accrued and were paid with respect to the Exemption Area prior to the Effective Date.



- d. All previous resolutions, if any, providing an exemption from or abatement of real property taxation with respect to the Exemption Area are hereby revoked as of the Effective Date.
6. In consideration of the New Exemption, the owner of the Exemption Area, for so long as the New Exemption shall remain in effect, shall 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.

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,



Maria Torres-Springer

