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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 23—DECEMBER 6, 1974

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UPPER MANHATTAN PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Whereas, There exists an office of the Department of City Planning known as the upper Manhattan Planning and Development Office, which has been serving the area bounded by 155th Street and Harlem River Drive on the north, the Harlem River in the east, 96th Street and Cathedral Parkway on the south and the Hudson River on the west, and the Community Planning Boards 9, 10 and 11 located therein; and

Whereas, It is necessary and desirable that the planning functions performed by said office including assisting in the selection of sites for residential projects and for city capital projects in or affecting the area, the preparation and coordination of special plans and studies, the preparation of the draft capital budget with respect to city capital projects for the area, and other planning activities necessary and desirable for the area, be continued and be expanded to better serve the communities and the Community Planning Boards within the area; and

Whereas, It is necessary and desirable to coordinate within the Office of the Mayor the aforesaid planning functions and the activities of all city agencies with respect to the development, rehabilitation, and redevelopment of residential, commercial, industrial, cultural and civic functions in the area and to coordinate such functions and activities with those of private interests, community groups, public authorities and the state and federal governments; and

Whereas, In particular, there is a need to coordinate the activities of the aforesaid entities with respect to the development of 125th Street and adjacent areas into a major commercial and retail center, the timing, scope and nature of development within the Urban Renewal areas and the Neighborhood Preservation District within the area, the interfacing of educational, social welfare and cultural services and activities with physical development of the area; and

Whereas, It is necessary and desirable to reconsider the existing zoning for the area in light of present and projected development conditions and, in particular, to consider the desirability of special zoning districts, air rights transfers and other contemporary zoning techniques.

Now, therefore, by virtue of the power vested in me as Mayor of The City of New York, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Upper Manhattan Planning and Development Office.* There is established in the Executive Office of the Mayor the Upper Manhattan Planning and Development Office, which shall be headed by a Director of Upper Manhattan Planning and Development who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.

§ 2. *Powers and Duties of the Director.* The Director shall have the following powers and duties with respect to planning and development:

(a) in consultation with the agencies concerned and the Harlem Urban Development Corporation, to have full responsibility to create an overall plan for the area, and to prepare, advise on and coordinate special plans and studies with regard to matters affecting the area.

(b) to coordinate and review the actions and plans of all city agencies, private entities and community groups in connection with the overall plan, any special plans or studies and the activities and projects referred to in this Executive Order, and to

report to the Mayor on the effect of such actions, plans and projects on the development of the area.

(c) to coordinate activities, actions and plans with public authorities, state and federal governments.

(d) to make recommendations and assist the city agencies, including the Housing and Development Administration, the Economic Development Administration, the City Planning Commission, the Transportation Administration and the Public Development Corporation in the creation of detailed plans and schedules for development and redevelopment in the area.

(e) to study and make recommendations with respect to design controls and zoning for the area.

(f) to review and make recommendations with respect to capital budget items and development programs in or affecting the area.

(g) to serve as liaison between the Mayor, City agencies and developers with regard to any activities in or affecting the area.

(h) to hire staff personnel, designate advisors and advisory groups and retain consultants, subject to all applicable regulations in connection with the performance of the foregoing.

§ 3. *Coordination.* All actions taken by the City agency or by the Director with respect to the overall plan or to any matters which may materially affect the development of the area, including: the exercise of any agency's liaison responsibilities with the Harlem Urban Development Corporation and other State, multi-State and Federal agencies, the submission of applications to Federal and State governments and the undertaking of joint studies involving the City and State, multi-State and Federal agencies, shall be consistent with the overall plan and shall be undertaken only after consultation among the Director and the City agencies concerned.

§ 4. *Cooperating Agencies.* City agencies responsible for providing public improvements and services in Upper Manhattan, including the Housing and Development Administration, the Transportation Administration, the Public Development Corporation, the Economic Development Administration and the Department of City Planning, shall cooperate with the Director of Upper Manhattan Planning and Development in the performance of his functions and duties as hereinabove set forth.

§ 5. *Effective Date.* This order shall take effect immediately.