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Letter from Albert Cabbad and David Brickman, President and Executive Director of the Park Slope Fifth Avenue Local Development Corporation to Frederick Schwartz, Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission

Albert Cabbad

Park Slope Fifth Avenue Local Development Corporation

David Brickman

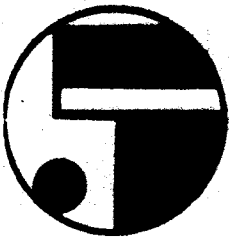
Park Slope Fifth Avenue Local Development Corporation

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PARK SLOPE FIFTH AVENUE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

94 Fifth Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11217

(718) 638-4400

April 17, 1989

Fredrick Schwartz, Chairman
Charter Revision Commission
11 Park Place, Suite #1616
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mr. Schwarz:

The Park Slope Fifth Avenue Local Development Corporation (PSFALDC) is a not-for-profit organization that has been working for nine years to revitalize and improve the Lower Park Slope neighborhood. Through contracts with the New York City Office of Business Development, the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal and grants from private institutions we have been successful in: stimulating the physical renovation of over 100 vacant properties, marketing and promoting the Fifth Avenue commercial strip, creating almost 300 jobs and retaining nearly 1000 through referrals and business retention/relocation.

It has come to our attention that the Charter Review Commission (CRC) is considering the role of the Borough President's (BPs) in the budget adoption process. Specifically, we understand that the CRC is proposing to reduce the power of the respective BPs by abolishing the Board of Estimate, and turning the responsibility for budget adoption over to the City Council.

The Board of Directors of the PSFALDC would like to go on record as stating that we feel that it is a mistake to remove the BPs from the budget process in their respective boroughs. As representatives of an entire county, the BPs are uniquely qualified to represent the interests and needs of the entire borough constituency as opposed to those of a small district. We feel that the BP's influence has and should continue to counterbalance the localized interests of the city council members.

The Borough is the basic component of New York City's economic, geographic and social structure. While attempts should be made to integrate all five boroughs, borough wide planning, particularly on a budgetary level, must remain a priority; and this can only be meaningfully accomplished by retaining a role for the BPs in budget adoption.

We thank you for your consideration and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Albert Cabbad
President

David Brickman
Executive Director

CC: Eric Lane, Executive Director CRC