



IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by Lenox Hill Hospital, pursuant to Section 201 of the New York City Charter, for an amendment of the Zoning Resolution of the City of New York, amending Article VI, Chapter 6 (Special Regulations Applying Around Mass Transit Stations), Article VII, Chapter 4 (Special Permits by the City Planning Commission), Article IX, Chapter 2 (Special Park Improvement District) and APPENDIX F for the purpose of establishing a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing area, Manhattan, Community District 8.

This application for a zoning text amendment was filed by Lenox Hill Hospital on January 2, 2025. This application, in conjunction with the related applications, would facilitate the redevelopment and enlargement of Lenox Hill Hospital, located at 100 East 77th Street (Block 1411, Lots 1 and 113), in the Lenox Hill neighborhood of Manhattan, Community District 8.

RELATED ACTIONS

In addition to the zoning text amendment (N 250152 ZRM) that is the subject of this report, the proposed project also requires action by the City Planning Commission (CPC) on the following actions, which are being considered concurrently with this application:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| C 250151 ZMM | Zoning map amendment to change an R8B district to a C1-8 district and a C1-8X district to a C1-9 district. |
| C 250153 ZSM | Zoning special permit to facilitate a floor area increase of up to 20 percent for non-profit hospital use, allow such floor area bonus to be used in conjunction with a transit improvement bonus, and permit modifications of applicable bulk regulations. |
| N 250154 ZAM | Zoning authorization to enable a floor area increase from proposed subway station improvements. |

BACKGROUND

A full background discussion and description of this application appears in the report for the related zoning special permit (C 250153 ZSM).

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This application (N 250152 ZRM), in conjunction with the related actions, was reviewed pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and the SEQRA regulations set forth in Volume 6 of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations, Section 617.00 *et seq.* and the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Rules of Procedure of 1991 and Executive Order No. 91 of 1977. The lead is the City Planning Commission. The designated CEQR number is 23DCP079M.

It was determined that this application, in conjunction with the applications for the related actions, may have a significant effect on the environment, and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be required. A Positive Declaration was issued on January 30, 2023, and subsequently distributed, published, and filed. Together with the Positive Declaration, a Draft Scope of Work for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was issued on January 30, 2023. A public scoping meeting was held on March 2, 2023, and the Final Scope of Work was issued on January 31, 2025. A full description of the environmental review is included in the report for the related zoning special permit (C 250153 ZSM).

PUBLIC REVIEW

This application (N 250152 ZRM), along with the related application for a zoning authorization (N 250154 ZAM), was duly referred to Manhattan Community Board 8 and the Manhattan Borough President on February 3, 2025 in accordance with the procedures for non-ULURP matters, along with the related applications for a zoning map amendment (C 250151 ZMM) and zoning special permit (C 250153 ZSM) which were certified as complete by the Department of City Planning in accordance with Title 62 of the Rules of the City of New York, Section 2-02(b).

Community Board Review

Manhattan Community Board 8 held a public hearing on this application (N 250152 ZRM) along with the related applications for a zoning map amendment (C 250151 ZMM), zoning special permit (C 250153 ZSM), and zoning authorization (N 250154 ZAM) on March 12, 2025, and on April 9, 2025, by a vote of 23 in favor, 14 opposed, and one abstaining adopted a resolution recommending disapproval of the application with the conditions. A summary of the recommendation appears in the report for the related special permit (C 250153 ZSM).

Borough President Recommendation

On May 14, 2025, the Manhattan Borough President issued a recommendation on this application (N 250152 ZRM) along with the related applications for a zoning map amendment (C 250151 ZMM), zoning special permit (C 250153 ZSM), and zoning authorization (N 250154 ZAM), to approve the application with the conditions. A summary of the recommendation appears in the report for the related special permit (C 250153 ZSM).

City Planning Commission Public Hearing

On May 7, 2025, (Calendar No. 6), the City Planning Commission scheduled May 21, 2025, for a public hearing on this application (N 250152 ZRM) and the related actions for a zoning map amendment (C 250151 ZMM), and zoning special permit (C 250153 ZSM). The hearing was duly held on May 21, 2025 (Calendar No. 13).

Twenty-four speakers testified in favor, and 46 in opposition, as described in the report for the related special permit (C 250153 ZSM), and the hearing was closed.

CONSIDERATION

The Commission believes that this application for a zoning text amendment (N 250152 ZRM), in conjunction with the related actions for a zoning map amendment (C 250151 ZMM), zoning special permit (C 250153 ZSM), and zoning authorization (N 250154 ZAM) is appropriate. A full consideration and analysis of the issues and the reasons for approving the application appear in the report for the related special permit (C 250153 ZSM).

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that having considered the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), for which a Notice of Completion was issued on June 20, 2025, with respect to this application (CEQR No. 23DCP079M), the City Planning Commission finds that the requirements of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and Regulations have been met and that:

1. The environmental impacts disclosed in the FEIS were evaluated in relation to the social, economic, and other considerations associated with the action that is set forth in this report; and
2. Consistent with social, economic, and other essential considerations, from among the reasonable alternatives provided in the application, the actions are one which minimizes or avoids adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable; and
3. The adverse environmental impacts revealed in the FEIS will be minimized or avoided to the maximum extent practicable by incorporating as conditions to the approval, pursuant to the restrictive declaration dated June 30, 2025, those project components related to the environment and mitigation measures that were identified as practicable.

The report of the City Planning Commission, together with the FEIS, constitutes the written statement of findings that form the basis of the decision, pursuant to Section 617.11(d) of the SEQRA regulations; and be it further

RESOLVED, by the City Planning Commission, pursuant to Section 201 of the New York City Charter, that based on the environmental determination and consideration described in the related report (C 250153 ZSM), the Zoning Resolution of the City of New York, effective as of December 15, 1961, and as subsequently amended, is further amended as follows:

Matter underlined is new, to be added;
Matter ~~struck out~~ is to be deleted;
Matter within # # is defined in Section 12-10;

* * * indicates where unchanged text appears in the Zoning Resolution.

ARTICLE VI SPECIAL REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN AREAS

* * *

Chapter 6 Special Regulations Applying Around Mass Transit Stations

* * *

66-50 SPECIAL APPROVALS

* * *

66-51 Additional Floor Area for Mass Transit Station Improvements

* * *

66-513 Additional rules and limitations, conditions, findings, and requirements

Any authorization or special permit application pursuant to the provisions of Section 66-511 (Additional floor area for mass transit station improvements by authorization) or Section 66-512 (Additional floor area for mass transit station improvements by special permit), respectively, shall be subject to the following provisions.

(a) Additional rules and limitations on bonus #floor area#

The following rules and limitations on bonus #floor area# shall apply in addition to the provisions set forth in Sections 66-511 and 66-512:

- (1) Where a #zoning lot# contains multiple #uses# with different #floor area ratios#, the bonus may be applied to any individual #use#, and the total of all #floor area ratios# shall not exceed 20 percent of the greatest #floor area ratio# permitted on the #zoning lot#;
- (2) The #floor area# bonus may be used in combination with other #floor area#

bonuses, provided that the maximum #floor area ratio# permitted through the combination of bonuses does not exceed 20 percent of the maximum #floor area ratio# otherwise permitted on the #zoning lot#. However, such 20 percent limitation shall not apply;

(i) where explicitly stated otherwise in a Special Purpose District; or

(ii) where explicitly stated otherwise in a special permit of the City Planning Commission; and

(3) For #MIH developments# or #UAP developments#, the requirements of Article II, Chapter 7 (Additional Regulations and Administration in Residence Districts) shall not apply to the bonus #floor area# granted under the provisions of this Section.

For the purposes of applying this paragraph to applications seeking an authorization pursuant to Section 66-511 (Additional floor area for mass transit station improvements by authorization), notwithstanding the above allowances, in no event shall the amount of bonus #floor area# exceed 200,000 square feet.

(b) Conditions

* * *

**ARTICLE VII
ADMINISTRATION**

* * *

**Chapter 4
Special Permits by the City Planning Commission**

* * *

**74-90
ADDITIONAL PERMITS**

* * *

**74-904
Non-profit or voluntary hospitals in R9 or R10 Districts and certain Commercial Districts**

For a #zoning lot# occupying an entire #block# located in an R9 or an R10 District, or in #commercial districts# mapped within, or with a #residential equivalent# of an R9 or an R10 District, partially within the #Special Park Improvement District#, and containing a non-profit or voluntary hospital and related facilities, as listed in Use Group III(B), the City Planning Commission may, by special permit, allow the modifications set forth in paragraph (a) of this Section, provided the conditions set forth in paragraph (b) and findings set forth in paragraph (c) are met.

- (a) The Commission may allow an increase in the maximum #community facility# #floor area ratio# by up to a maximum of 20 percent. A #floor area# bonus pursuant to this Section may be used in combination with a #floor area# bonus permitted pursuant to Section 66-51 (Additional Floor Area for Mass Transit Station Improvements), and the combination of such bonuses may exceed 20 percent of the maximum #floor area ratio# otherwise permitted.

In connection with such #floor area# bonus, the Commission may allow modifications to applicable #bulk# regulations.

- (b) In order to grant a special permit pursuant to this Section, the following conditions shall be met:

- (1) a minimum #floor area# of 75 percent of any #development# or #enlargement# on such #zoning lot# will be allocated to such hospital #use#;
- (2) the bonus #floor area# allowed pursuant to this Section shall be exclusively allocated to such hospital #use#; and
- (3) the amount of #floor area# to be located on the portion of such #zoning lot# within the #Special Park Improvement District# shall not exceed a #floor area ratio# of 10.0.

- (c) In order to grant a special permit pursuant to this Section, the Commission shall find that:

- (1) the public benefit derived from such proposed hospital #development# or #enlargement# merits the additional #floor area# being granted pursuant to this special permit;
- (2) where #bulk# modifications are utilized, such modifications will provide a more satisfactory physical relationship to existing hospital #buildings or other structures# on the #zoning lot#, and facilitate a more efficient and integrated site plan; and

- (3) where #bulk# modifications are utilized, the distribution of #bulk# on the #zoning lot# will result in a satisfactory site plan and urban design relationships of #buildings or other structures# to adjacent #streets# and the surrounding area.

The Commission may prescribe appropriate conditions and safeguards to minimize adverse effects on the character of the surrounding area.

74-91

Modification of Public Plazas

* * *

ARTICLE IX

SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICTS

* * *

Chapter 2

Special Park Improvement District

* * *

92-20

SPECIAL BULK REGULATIONS

* * *

92-21

Special Floor Area Regulations

The underlying #floor area# regulations shall apply except as modified in this Section.

For #developments# or #enlargements# on #qualifying transit improvement sites#, a #floor area# bonus for #mass transit station# improvements may be granted by the City Planning Commission pursuant to the provisions of Section 66-51 (Additional Floor Area for Mass Transit Station Improvements). For the purposes of this paragraph, defined terms additionally include those in Section 66-11 (Definitions). In addition, a #floor area# bonus may be granted by the Commission pursuant to the provisions of Section 74-904 (Non-profit or voluntary hospitals in R9 or R10 Districts and certain Commercial Districts). No other #floor area# bonuses shall be permitted.

* * *

APPENDIX F

Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Areas and former Inclusionary Housing Designated Areas

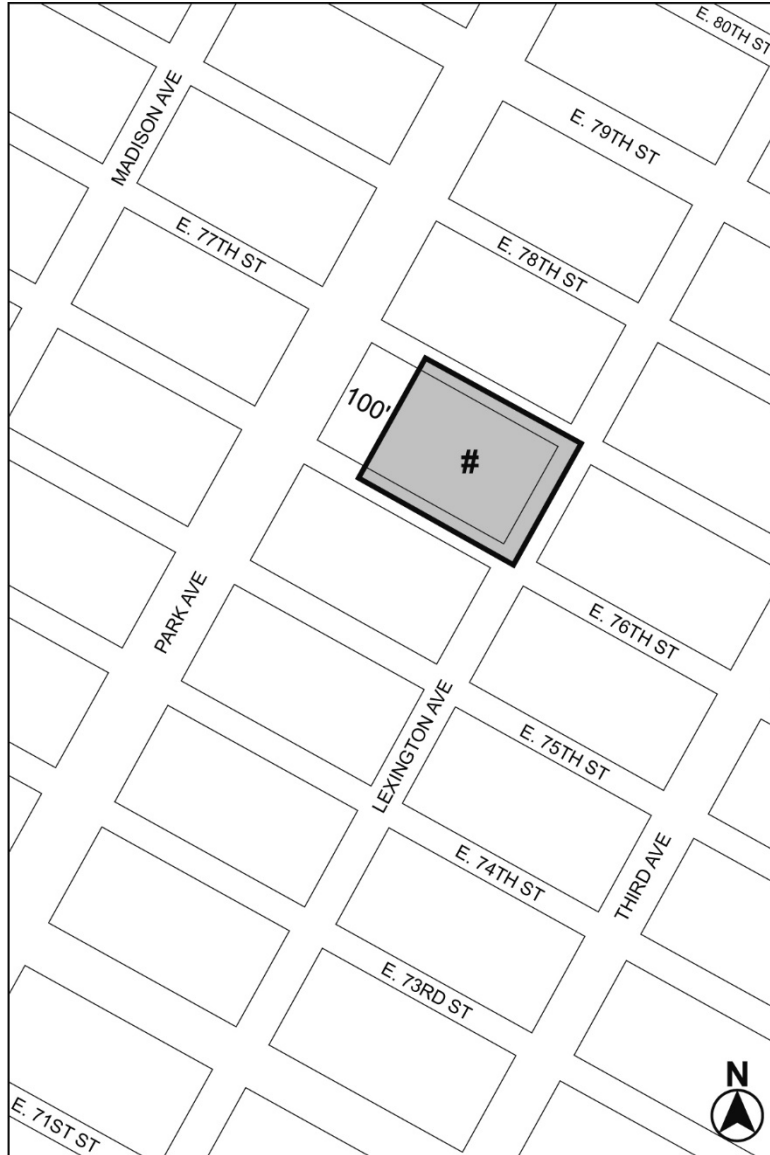
MANHATTAN

* * *

Manhattan Community District 8

* * *

Map 3 – [date of adoption]



Mandatory Inclusionary Housing area

Area # — [date of adoption] MIH Option 1 and Option 2

Portion of Community District 8, Manhattan

* * *

The above resolution (N 250152 ZRM), duly adopted by the City Planning Commission on July 2, 2025 (Supplemental Calendar No. 2), is filed with the Office of the Speaker, City Council, and the Borough President, in accordance with the requirements of Section 197-d of the New York City Charter.

DANIEL R. GARODNICK, Esq., *Chair,*
KENNETH J. KNUCKLES, Esq., *Vice Chairman*
GAIL BENJAMIN, ALFRED C. CERULLO, III, Esq., ANTHONY W. CROWELL, Esq.,
JOSEPH I. DOUEK, DAVID GOLD, Esq., LEAH GOODRIDGE, Esq.,
RASMIA KIRMANI-FRYE, ORLANDO MARÍN,
JUAN CAMILO OSORIO, RAJ RAMPERSHAD, *Commissioners*



COMMUNITY/BOROUGH BOARD RECOMMENDATION

Project Name: Lenox Hill Hospital			
Applicant:	Northwell Health	Applicant's Primary Contact:	Melanie Meyers
Application #	250152ZRM	Borough:	
CEQR Number:	23DCP079M	Validated Community Districts:	M08

Docket Description:

Please use the above application number on all correspondence concerning this application

RECOMMENDATION: Conditional Unfavorable			
# In Favor: 23	# Against: 14	# Abstaining: 1	Total members appointed to the board: 38
Date of Vote: 4/9/2025 8:00 AM		Vote Location: https://www.cb8m.com/event/33784/	

Please attach any further explanation of the recommendation on additional sheets as necessary

Date of Public Hearing: 3/12/2025 6:00 PM	
Was a quorum present? Yes	<i>A public hearing requires a quorum of 20% of the appointed members of the board but in no event fewer than seven such members</i>
Public Hearing Location:	This hearing will be conducted hybrid in person and via Zoom. Memorial Sloan Kettering's Rockefeller Research Laboratories 430 East 67th Street (b/t First and York) https://www.cb8m.com/event/33781/

CONSIDERATION: see attached resolution

Recommendation submitted by	MN CB8	Date: 4/15/2025 10:32 AM
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Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

April 10, 2025

Daniel R. Garodnick, Chair
City Planning Commission
120 Broadway, 31st Floor
New York, NY 10271

Re: Lenox Hill Hospital (N250152ZRM, C250153ZSM, N250155ZCM, N250154ZAM, and C250151ZMM)

Dear Chair Garodnick,

At the Land Use Meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, the board approved the following resolution by a vote of 23 in favor, 14 opposed, 1 abstention, and 0 not voting for cause:

WHEREAS the Applicant, Lenox Hill/Northwell Health proposes a major expansion to its hospital on the block bordered by 76th and 77th Streets and Lexington and Park Avenues; and

WHEREAS the Applicant first proposed alterations to the campus in March of 2019 and few changes have been made to reflect community input following several meetings since that date; and

WHEREAS it is acknowledged that the Applicant needs to modernize certain aspects of the Lenox Hill Hospital campus; and

WHEREAS the proposed development will consist of a new tower on the Lexington Avenue portion of the site, a renovation to the Park Avenue portion of the site, and a mix of new and renovated construction in the midblock; and

WHEREAS the hospital plans to remain open throughout the projected nine year construction period; and

WHEREAS the Applicant proposes the following changes to the Zoning Resolution to accomplish the proposed development:

1. Zoning Map Amendments to rezone:
 - a. Only a 75% portion of the property's tax lot and zoning lot as follows:
 - i. The Lexington Avenue frontage of the Development Site from C1-8X to a C1-9 district; and
 - ii. The midblock of the Development Site from an R8B to a C1-8 district;
2. Zoning Text Amendment to:
 - a. Create a new special permit under ZR Section 74-904 (Non-profit or voluntary hospitals in R9 or R10 districts and certain Commercial Districts) pursuant to which the City Planning Commission may, for a development or enlargement predominantly for Use Group III(B) hospital use on a full-block zoning lot improved with an existing hospital use and located in R9 or R10 districts, or equivalent commercial districts, and partially within the Special Park Improvement District:

- i. permit a floor area increase of up to 20% for community facility use;
 - ii. allow such floor area bonus to be used in combination with a floor area bonus permitted by authorization in connection with mass transit station improvements pursuant to ZR Section 66-51; and
 - iii. permit modifications of applicable bulk regulations, provided that the amount of floor area located within the Special Park Improvement District not exceed 10.0 FAR;
 - b. amend ZR Section 66-513(a)(2) to allow a floor area bonus pursuant to Section 66-511 or 66-512 in combination with other floor area bonuses, to exceed 20 percent of the maximum floor area otherwise permitted on the zoning lot where explicitly allowed by a special permit of the Commission;
 - c. amend ZR Section 92-21 to allow the permitted floor area ratio on a zoning lot partially within the Special Park Improvement District for which a special permit is granted under ZR Section 74-904 to exceed 10.0 FAR; and
 - d. establish the portions of the Development Site within the new C1-9 and C1-8 districts as a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (“MIH”) area;
3. Zoning special permit pursuant to ZR Section 74-904 to permit a redevelopment of the Development Site predominantly for Use Group 4 non-profit hospital use with up to 1,034,471 square feet of floor area (12.5 FAR);
 4. To permit up to 75% of the zoning lot to be programmed with hospital uses;
 5. Zoning Authorization pursuant to ZR Section 66-511 to permit, as part of the total proposed 12.5 FAR, a floor area increase of up to 0.5 FAR in connection with improvements to the southbound platform of the 77th Street station of the Lexington Avenue subway line;
 6. Zoning Certification pursuant to ZR Section 66-21 for a transit volume easement;
 7. Zoning special permit modifying street wall, height, and setback and other bulk regulations; and

WHEREAS the existing development on the block comprises approximately 781,500 gross square feet and approximately 620,500 zoning square feet (FAR 7.5), which is in excess of the allowable zoning floor area under the current zoning (approximately 600,000 zoning square feet); and

WHEREAS the applicant proposes a development (both renovated and new construction) comprising approximately 1,390,000 gross square feet and 1,034,471 zoning square feet (FAR 12.5); and

WHEREAS the applicant claims a desperate need for an expansion of the improvements, but is not seeking to rezone the entirety of the zoning lot, omitting a 20,833 square foot portion of the zoning lot fronting along Park Avenue; and

WHEREAS the applicant’s proposed effective FAR of 12.5 is unprecedented for a hospital campus in Manhattan as it exceeds the effective FAR of, at least, the following:

- a. St. Luke’s Roosevelt / Mt. Sinai West at 424 10th Avenue
- b. Mt. Sinai Hospital and 1440 Madison Avenue
- c. New York Presbyterian 1176 York Avenue
- d. The proposed MSK development and existing campus on Blocks 1461 and 1462
- e. The David Koch hospital at 530 West 74th Street (MSK)
- f. NYU Langone
- g. Bellevue Hospital
- h. The VA hospital at 423 East 23rd Street
- i. CU Medical Center and Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital; and

WHEREAS the proposed development will feature one of two tower configurations on the Lexington Avenue portion of the site:

- A. A tower approximately 200 feet by 180 feet in ground plan and a height of 436 feet with an attached midblock portion on the 76th street side approximately 80 feet by 90 feet and a height of 210 feet; or
- B. A tower approximately 200 feet by 180 feet in ground plan and a height of 395 feet with an attached midblock portion on the 76th street side approximately 80 feet by 90 feet and a height of 360 feet; and

WHEREAS the existing hospital has 172 beds in single-bedded rooms and 278 beds in double-occupancy rooms (139 rooms) for a total of 450 beds, and the proposed hospital will have 475 single-bedded rooms (234 square feet each, exclusive of ADA bathroom and nurse's station); and

WHEREAS the proposed development will include an increased number (and size) of Operating Rooms, additional loading bays, interior ambulance bays, and an increase in the size of the Emergency Department which will be located on the Second Floor; and

WHEREAS the hospital will have its main entrance at the corner of 76th Street and Lexington Avenue, and a "Mother and Baby" entrance on Park Avenue; and

WHEREAS the proposal will provide an accessible entry to the Uptown platform of the Lexington Avenue Subway at 77th Street; and

WHEREAS the proposed zoning and proposed bulk for the Lexington Avenue portion of the site creates an imbalance of the floor area distribution across the site although spreading the proposed floor area equally across the site could produce a building about 250 feet tall; and

WHEREAS the proposed tower would be over twice the height of the tallest building permitted under the current zoning on Lexington Avenue, and its footprint, occupying the entire Lexington Avenue blockfront at its full height, is too massive and out of scale with the surrounding neighborhood; and

WHEREAS in order to build the proposed development, the applicant requires not only a change of zoning designation on three quarters of the entire site, but then must obtain permission for modification of height, setback and other bulk controls, selecting the most generous bulk and area regulations while seeking relief from those rules; and.

WHEREAS the massive tower will create a "canyon" shadow effect along Lexington Avenue and both side streets; and

WHEREAS the requested floor area bonus for Transit Improvement does not take into account the absence of accessible access to the Northbound IRT at 77th Street, which is an urgent need at this location; and

WHEREAS no real consideration has been given to the way that many patients arrive at the hospital – via public transportation or by car; and

WHEREAS no drop-off area is proposed, further obstructing traffic on Lexington Avenue, as the entrance to the hospital is located on the corner of Lexington and 76th Street, adjacent to a bus lane; and

WHEREAS the proposed entrance to the "Mother and Baby" hospital with no drop-off area on Park Avenue will also disrupt traffic on Park Avenue; and

WHEREAS the proposal requires ambulances and trucks to enter the hospital but are then forced to back out, twice crossing sidewalks on 77th and 76th Streets and disrupting both pedestrian and vehicular traffic; and

WHEREAS the small increase in hospital beds increases the height of the Lexington Avenue tower by at least one floor; and

WHEREAS the DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement) failed to identify potential impact of this project (transportation, open space, water and sewer infrastructure, and neighborhood character) while identifying impacts that can, under the proposal have no real mitigation; and

WHEREAS despite comments to the contrary made by the applicant, common sense would indicate that a much larger hospital will need more staff to run it, increasing traffic in the immediate area; and

WHEREAS no parking is proposed for this development, despite a current lack of parking on the Upper East Side which may be exacerbated by congestion pricing; and

WHEREAS the proposed construction schedule, a result of maintaining operations at the hospital while it is substantially reconstructed, is too long; and

WHEREAS Saturday and late work permits will be requested throughout the construction period, disrupting normal activities for a generation of East Siders; and

WHEREAS no provisions have been identified for traffic disruption mitigation during construction; and

WHEREAS no provisions for unloading of building materials or possible additional lane closures for construction vehicles have been presented; and

WHEREAS the applicant assumes that construction workers will all arrive by subway or bus which is unrealistic; and

WHEREAS noise and dust and debris are unavoidable with any construction, but the length of construction time anticipated in this development proposal amplifies these issues beyond what is reasonable; and

WHEREAS construction activities on 77th Street will interfere with the arrival of ambulances and the functioning of the Emergency Department throughout the construction period; and

WHEREAS the working conditions within the hospital during construction will likely degrade patient care and at the very least inconvenience staff; and

WHEREAS the proposed decade of construction will upend our dense residential neighborhood: a thriving community filled with schools, houses of worship, small businesses, hotels and institutions cannot survive the noise, pollutants/dust, danger, traffic and overall chaos that will accompany construction of this magnitude; and

WHEREAS the delicate balance of the architecture on the narrowest avenue on the Upper East Side will be upset forever; and

WHEREAS the portion of the development site within the Park Improvement District will not be subject to Mandatory Inclusionary Housing, and could, at a later date, be split off from the proposed development and developed as of right as housing; and

WHEREAS the proposed 12.5 FAR for the Development Site represents the application of every available floor area bonus after a rezoning of the entire site to 10 FAR, increasing the overall size of the project by 250,000 zoning square feet; and

WHEREAS the Community Board acknowledges and agrees with Lenox Hill Hospital that it is in need of modernization and we have no objection to a temporary closing of the hospital during any construction period, to speed up the modernization of the hospital; and

WHEREAS the community has opposed the project through petitions (over 6000 signatures), written testimony for the Community Board Land Use Meeting in March (522 opposed with 164 in favor), and in-person testimony at the March Land Use Meeting (over 100 speakers); and

WHEREAS healthcare equity would indicate that the applicant's resources could be put to better use in other parts of the city which have been described as "Health Care Deserts"; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this application is **DISAPPROVED** as presented **unless all of the following conditions are met:**

- A. Applicant commits to a maximum height of 215' uniformly across the entire zoning lot. No bonus mechanisms will allow any increase in height; and
- B. Applicant commits to either, but not both, of the Transit Improvement and Hospital Floor Area Bonuses requested by special permit (pursuant to ZR Section 74-904 and ZR Section 66-51); and
- C. Applicant commits to mapping the entirety of the zoning lot within an MIH district; and
- D. Applicant commits to an accessible entrance to BOTH Southbound and Northbound platforms of the IRT subway at the 77th Street Station; and
- E. Applicant commits to permanent hospital use on the entire zoning lot; and
- F. If Applicant sells the Park Avenue frontage for residential development, Applicant will notify the public and commit to allocating 5% of the sales price for transit improvements and other community benefits to be determined; and
- G. Applicant commits to provide parking (on-site or new off-site parking locations) to accommodate staff and patients/visitors; and
- H. Applicant commits to request NO After Hours Variance Permits in connection with this project without the prior approval of the Community Board.

Please advise our office of any action taken on this matter, and, of course, we remain available to discuss any of the conditions set forth in our resolution and continue a dialogue with the applicant.

Sincerely,

Valerie S. Mason

Valerie S. Mason
Chair

cc: Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York
Honorable Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate of the City of New York
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Jerry Nadler, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Edward Gibbs, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District

Honorable Alex Bores, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District
Honorable Julie Menin, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Diana Ayala, NYC Council Member, 8th Council District
Dr. Daniel J. Baker, President, Lenox Hill Hospital



BOROUGH PRESIDENT RECOMMENDATION

Project Name: Lenox Hill Hospital	
Applicant: Northwell Health	Applicant's Administrator: Melanie Meyers
Application # 250152ZRM	Borough: Manhattan
CEQR Number: 23DCP079M	Validated Community Districts: M08

Docket Description:
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Please use the above application number on all correspondence concerning this application

RECOMMENDATION: Conditional Favorable
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Please attach any further explanation of the recommendation on additional sheets as necessary

CONSIDERATION: 		
Recommendation submitted by	MN BP	Date: 5/14/2025 6:18 PM



OFFICE OF THE

MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

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Mark Levine, Borough President

May 14, 2025

**Recommendation on ULURP Application Nos. N250152ZRM, C250153ZSM,
N250155ZCM, N250154ZAM, C250151ZMM – Lenox Hill Hospital
By Northwell Health**

PROPOSED ACTIONS

Northwell Health (the “Applicant”) is proposing multiple land use actions to facilitate the redevelopment and enlargement of the existing Lenox Hill Hospital (the “Proposed Project”) located on the block bounded by East 76th Street, East 77th Street, Lexington Avenue, and Park Avenue (Block 1411, Lots 1 and 113), in Manhattan Community District 8 (the “Site”).

The Applicant proposes the following actions:

1. A zoning map amendment to rezone the Lexington Avenue frontage of the Site from C1-8X to C1-9 and the midblock portion of the Site from R8B to C1-8 (the “Rezoning Area”);
2. A zoning text amendment that includes the following:
 - a. Create a new special permit per Section 74-904 of the New York City Zoning Resolution (ZR), for non-profit or voluntary hospitals in R9, R10, and certain commercial districts, occupying a full-block zoning lot, and partially within the Special Park Improvement District, the City Planning Commission (CPC) can permit:
 - i. A floor area increase of up to 20% for community facility use;
 - ii. The floor area bonus can be used in combination with a floor area bonus from an authorization connected to mass transit station improvements (ZR 66-51);
 - iii. Modifications of applicable bulk regulations provided that the amount of floor area located in the Special Park Improvement District does not exceed a floor area ratio (FAR) of 10.0;
 - b. Amend ZR Section 66-513(a)(2) to allow a floor area bonus pursuant to ZR Section 66-511 or 66-512 in combination with other floor area bonuses to exceed 20% of the maximum FAR otherwise allowed where permitted by CPC special permit;
 - c. Amend ZR Section 92-21 to allow the permitted FAR on a zoning lot partially within the Special Park Improvement District for which a special permit is granted under ZR Section 74-904 to exceed 10.0 FAR;
 - d. Amend ZR Appendix F to establish the Rezoning Area as a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (“MIH”) area;
3. A special permit pursuant to ZR Section 74-904 to permit redevelopment of the Site predominantly for Use Group III(B) non-profit hospital use, containing up to 1,034,471 square feet of floor area and an FAR of 12.5;

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4. Authorization pursuant to ZR Section 65-511 to permit a floor area increase of up to .5 FAR for improvements to the southbound platform of the 77th Street station on the Lexington Avenue line as part of the total proposed 12.5; and
5. Certification pursuant to ZR Section 66-21(c) transit volume encompassing the mass transit station improvements in connection with the Proposed Project.

These actions would facilitate the redevelopment and enlargement of Lenox Hill Hospital, with single-bed rooms, larger operating suites, a right-sized emergency department, new entrances, ambulance bays, loading bays, and subway improvements.

BACKGROUND

Lenox Hill Hospital was founded at its current location in 1857, and the first hospital building opened in the late 1860s. The Site has since grown to include ten buildings, built between the 1800s and the early 1970s.

While six of the hospital's ten buildings were built before the establishment of the 1961 Zoning Resolution, the area has undergone a series of zoning changes since then. The Special Park Improvement District was mapped in 1973 and the depth of the Special District's R10 boundary was reduced in 1983. Lexington Avenue was rezoned to C1-8A then C1-8X in 1983 and 1984 respectively, the midblock was rezoned to R8B in 1985, and maximum height limits were established. Three of the hospital buildings have existing variances from the New York City Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA), including variances for exceeding various maximum height and lot coverage requirements.

The Applicant first proposed the redevelopment of Lenox Hill Hospital in 2019. The proposal originally contemplated a 516-foot hospital building fronting Lexington Avenue and a 490-foot residential building fronting Park Avenue. Then Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and Council Member Keith Powers convened a task force that met seven times between December 2019 and November 2020, and by the conclusion the Applicant had revised their proposal to the 436-foot envelope on Lexington Avenue and eliminated the residential building, which is reflected in the current Proposed Development.

Lenox Hill Hospital currently has 450 beds and has an average of 360 patients per day, an occupancy rate of 80%. This occupancy rate is the standard called for in New York State to provide proper patient care, allow flexibility for hospital volume surges, ensure staff capacity, and respond to emergencies. The existing emergency department (ED) is approximately 14,000 square feet, with 34 existing ED positions, 15 of which are located in the hallway and separated by a curtain, and the ED is often over capacity. The Applicant projects that by 2036 Lenox Hill will have 62,000 ED visits annually and need 48 treatment spaces.

Other standalone hospital campuses exceed the square footage of the proposed redevelopment. The campuses of NYU Langone, Mount Sinai, New York-Presbyterian/Weill-Cornell, Memorial

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Sloan Kettering Pavilion and MSK-CUNY, and NYP/Columbia have zoning square footages ranging from 2.65 million to 4.58 million, as well as comparable heights.¹

Proposed Development

The Proposed Project would redevelop Lenox Hill Hospital with up to 1,034,471 square feet of non-profit hospital use and up to 2,500 square feet of retail use. The hospital would include 475 single-bed rooms; 30 operating rooms; 48 emergency department positions; 13 labor, delivery, and recovery rooms; enlarged operating suites; an enlarged emergency department of 41,500 square feet; new entrances, ambulance bays, and loading berths; and a new subway entrance. The retail space would likely be occupied by a ground-floor pharmacy.

The Applicant proposes two building envelope options, “Envelope 1” and “Envelope 2.” The two envelopes propose the same zoning square footage and hospital program. Envelope 1 proposes a 436-foot hospital building with a width of 180 feet on Lexington Avenue and 210 feet tall in the midblock, which is the same as the tallest existing midblock building. Envelope 2 proposes a 395-foot hospital building with a width of 180 feet on Lexington Avenue, 360 feet tall in an 84-foot-wide portion of the midblock, then decreasing to approximately 190 feet. According to the Applicant, both envelopes would satisfy the clinical needs of the hospital. Both envelopes propose an FAR of 12.5, facilitated by the 10.0 FAR from the rezoning and an additional 2.5 FAR from the community facility and mass transit improvement bonuses.

The proposed development would move the hospital entrances from the side streets they are on today to the avenues. On Lexington Avenue, the main hospital lobby would be located furthest south towards 76th Street, the retail entrance would be in the middle of Lexington Avenue, and the emergency department walk-in entrance would be furthest north close to 77th Street. The renovated southbound subway station entrance would be located at the corner of Lexington Avenue and 77th Street. Lastly, a new dedicated Mother-Baby entrance is proposed on Park Avenue. The sidewalks are also proposed to be widened for improved pedestrian circulation.

Additionally, the proposal includes six ambulance bays on 77th Street, accessible by three proposed curb cuts, compared to no ambulance bays in the current hospital where patients are unloaded from ambulances in the street. The Applicant also proposes four new loading berths on 76th Street in addition to the existing three, with the new berths sized to accommodate modern trucks.

The proposed subway station improvements include a larger covered entrance within the footprint of the hospital building, widening the staircase from two separate five-foot staircases to one 15-foot staircase, and installing an elevator to the mezzanine and then a ramp to the platform for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. The Applicant is proposing a floor area increase of .5 FAR connected to this mass transit improvement. No improvements to the northbound subway entrance are currently proposed, as the Applicant has stated they do not control the property on the northbound side.

¹ NYP/Columbia: 250 feet, NYU Langone: 374 feet, NYP/Weill-Cornell: 376 feet, Mount Sinai: 436 feet, MSK-CUNY: 438 feet, MSK Pavilion (not yet complete): 598 feet

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Area Context

The Site is located in Manhattan Community District 8 in the Lenox Hill neighborhood. The surrounding area is primarily zoned C1-8X, R8B, R10, and C1-9. A portion of the Site is located in the Special Park Improvement District. The Site is adjacent to the Upper East Side Historic District.

The Site is well served by transit by the 6 train at 77th Street and Lexington Avenue and the M101, M102, M103, and M79-SBS buses.

COMMUNITY BOARD RESOLUTION

Manhattan Community Board 8 (“CB8”) held a public hearing on the project on March 12, 2025 and accepted additional written commentary from members of the public.

On April 9, 2025, CB 8 voted 23-14-1 to recommend disapproval of the project unless the following conditions are met:

1. Commit to a maximum height of 215 feet across the entire zoning lot with no bonuses to increase the height;
2. Choose either the community facility floor area bonus or the mass transit improvement bonus, not both;
3. Establish the entirety of the zoning lot as a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) area;
4. Along with the commitment of other stakeholders, make the subway entrance to both southbound and northbound platforms accessible;
5. Maintain permanent hospital use on the entire zoning lot, and if the Park Avenue frontage is sold for residential development the public should be notified and 5% of the sales price should be used for transit improvements and other community benefits;
6. Provide parking on site or off site for staff and visitors; and
7. No after hour variance permits for construction without Community Board approval.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

New York City faces growing and urgent healthcare needs. Hospital closures, particularly in Manhattan’s downtown, have strained access across the boroughs and decaying infrastructure have forced hospitals to make difficult choices. To maintain a strong citywide healthcare system, it’s essential we invest in the institutions we have—starting with those already embedded in our neighborhoods.

Since 2019 the Upper East Side has been grappling with the proposed redevelopment of Lenox Hill Hospital and its implications for the neighborhood, for the patients who rely on healthcare services, and for the state of healthcare citywide.

Up until now, the development of the hospital has been piecemeal, with the last meaningful work to the hospital completed over 60 years ago. The building is out of compliance with current zoning. The aging facilities no longer meet present day needs. Half of the current emergency department beds are located in the hallway, patients per day exceeds capacity, and patients are

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unloaded from ambulances in the street, leading to severe congestion. In the six years since the initial proposal was contemplated, we have experienced a global pandemic, task forces have been formed, and Community Board meetings held, leading to the significant alteration of the original proposal. As the project continues to move through public review, we must ensure that the work of the past six years culminates in a project that provides high-quality healthcare to the Upper East Side and the city while also balancing the need to be a good neighbor to the surrounding community.

The redevelopment plan proposes to drastically improve patient care and experiences at the hospital. Improvements would include new operating rooms that can accommodate changing technologies, new ambulance bays that would allow ambulances to drop-off patients away from the chaos of the street, single rooms that help prevent the spread of disease, an expanded emergency department that would meet current and future capacity needs and get patients out of the hallway, wider sidewalks for better pedestrian circulation, and a more spacious and accessible southbound subway station.

While there is broad consensus that Lenox Hill is in urgent need of modernization, local residents have raised significant concerns about the current plan, including: building height, construction timeline and disruptions, patient experience and access to care, and lack of improvements to the northbound subway station.

My office and Lenox Hill have heard these concerns, and I have been working with them to identify opportunities to improve the proposal.

Height:

The height of the proposed building has been a primary concern for many local residents, and subsequently significant changes to height have been made since the plan was first proposed in 2019. Lenox Hill's current plan has reduced the proposed height of the building on Lexington Avenue by 16.8% with Envelope 1 or by 26.6% with Envelope 2. Lenox Hill has also maintained that any further reduction in height would lead to cutting hospital services. **However, I continue to call on Lenox Hill to explore creative solutions for further reduction in height without significantly reducing hospital services.**

Construction:

While the construction timeline has been reduced by two years and is now projected to be nine years (up to 6.5 externally with the rest done within the facility), it would still pose a serious disturbance. As the project continues through the design process, **I would like to see additional reduction in construction timeline, particularly the external construction, to the furthest extent possible.** The construction time period will also require extensive engagement by Lenox Hill, including communication with Community Board 8 and neighbors, and mitigations for noise, air quality, and traffic. Lenox Hill has already shared plans to soundproof patient rooms during construction and temporarily relocate the emergency department entrance to 76th Street during the period of peak construction, but ongoing coordination is needed.

Patient experience and access to care:

While the construction of six new ambulance bays is already a vast improvement to the existing campus, the current proposal requires ambulances to back out onto 77th Street, which poses operational and emergency response challenges. **I urge Lenox Hill to create a ground-floor plan that would allow ambulances to exit the hospital without having to back out, whether by turning around within the footprint of the building or passing through the building to exit on the other side.** Ensuring that ambulances can exit as seamlessly as possible will improve local street conditions.

It is important that all communities in the city have access to quality healthcare. Northwell has shown a commitment to expanding their care citywide, including a new eight-bed inpatient medical/surgical unit and cardiac catheterization suite in addition to existing services at Northwell Greenwich Village. **I am asking Northwell to continue to expand their healthcare services to areas of need citywide.**

While single-bed rooms would improve the standard of care for patients, their families, and medical staff, I also share concerns about whether patients with government insurance will still be able to access care in single-bed rooms. Lenox Hill has confirmed that Medicare and Medicaid will cover single-bed rooms. **I am still asking the hospital to ensure that cost of care not increase as a result of the renovation.**

Subway access:

Lenox Hill has committed to an upgraded and accessible subway station at the southbound platform. But failing to implement similar improvements for the northbound platform is problematic. Lenox Hill has explained multiple barriers to achieving this—they do not control the northbound properties, for the property owners to accommodate a subway entrance they would likely have to give up ground-floor retail space and lose a revenue source, and a sewer line would prevent an underpass from the southbound station. However, **I am asking Lenox Hill to continue making a concerted effort to come to an agreement with the property owners and provide adequate resources to support those improvements.**

Community and labor partnerships:

The plan includes commitments to community partnerships and good labor standards. This includes support and future commitment to support beloved Manhattan organizations like Harlem Grown and Carter Burden, as well as a commitment to using union labor for construction and maintaining their unionized workforce. **I urge Lenox Hill to enter a Project Labor Agreement for the renovation.**

To address these concerns and help improve access to healthcare in the area, I am pleased to announce two significant commitments to enhance this proposal:

First, to help facilitate close coordination with the local community and ensure construction impacts are mitigated, Lenox Hill has committed to hosting a construction task force. Lenox Hill will invite elected officials, representatives from neighboring buildings, and members of Community Board 8 to participate. Importantly, meetings will begin before the start of

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construction. This partnership between the community and the hospital is an important part of ensuring that the neighborhood is top of mind during all phases of the project.

Second, to help address our mental health crisis and ensure we are investing in healthcare infrastructure to support New Yorkers in need, I have secured a guarantee from Lenox Hill Hospital that they will be expanding their services to address this crisis head on. Northwell's mental health center in the Manhattan Eye, Ear, & Throat Hospital is at capacity with 21,000 patient visits a year and cannot accommodate the current volume of referrals and requests for care. Lenox Hill has committed to making a \$6 million capital investment in its mental health outpatient services, using vacant retail space nearby the Manhattan Eye, Ear, & Throat Hospital to create a new 10,000-square-foot outpatient mental health center that expects to see 30,000 patient visits annually. They intend to expand child and adolescent mental health services, partner with community organizations, and undertake important training and research, all of which will help address our citywide behavioral health needs.

Holding Lenox Hill Hospital to these improvements, in addition to the conditions related to construction, community partnership, and building size, will help ensure we invest in the future of healthcare in New York City while minimizing local disruption wherever possible. I recognize that the success of this project will require continuous work by Lenox Hill to engage with the community and be responsive to concerns at all phases of the project. My hope is that Lenox Hill Hospital and the community can come together throughout the remainder of this ULURP process and beyond to reach a reasonable outcome.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

Therefore, I recommend **approval** of ULURP Application Nos. N250152ZRM, C250153ZSM, N250155ZCM, N250154ZAM, C250151ZMM with the following conditions:

Maintain commitments made to this point:

1. Establish a construction task force or working group of elected officials, representatives from neighboring buildings, Community Board members, and any other nearby stakeholders that begins before the start of construction and meets regularly throughout construction;
2. Expand behavioral health services through the creation of a new Upper East Side outpatient center for mental health nearby the Manhattan Eye, Ear, & Throat Hospital;

Make the following improvements to the proposal:

3. Commit to a ground-floor plan that allows ambulances to pass through or turn around within the footprint of the hospital instead of having to back out onto 77th Street;
4. Reduce the height to the maximum extent possible, while avoiding a significant reduction in hospital services;
5. Make a concerted effort to reach an agreement with property owners and commit significant resources for improvements to the northbound subway station;

Make the following commitments to healthcare:

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6. Ensure that wait times and admittance times will decrease at Lenox Hill Hospital;
7. Ensure that the hospital does not diminish care to patients with public insurance and assure that the transition to single rooms does not preclude low-income patients and/or patients with public insurance;
8. Double down on healthcare services in other areas citywide, such as downtown Manhattan and other areas of the city in need of healthcare services;

Make the following commitments about construction:

9. Decrease construction time to the maximum extent possible, especially external construction;
10. Mitigate noise, traffic, and air quality issues from construction;
11. Minimize off-hours work and be in conversation with the construction task force (which will include representatives from Community Board 8) about any after-hour variance permits for construction;

Make the following commitments to the community:

12. Commit to using union labor for all aspects of the project including construction and hospital operation and maintenance, memorialized in a Project Labor Agreement;
13. Continue existing community partnerships and expand partnerships with additional community organizations;
14. Maintain permanent hospital use on the entire zoning lot, and if the Park Avenue frontage is sold for residential development to notify the public and commit 5% of the sales price for transit improvements and other community benefits;

Make the following commitments about operations:

15. Provide clear wayfinding and traffic mitigations for all entrances, including for pedestrians as well as car drop-offs and pickups, and ensure building facades are cohesive with the neighborhood context;
16. Study whether moving the Mother-Baby entrance from Park Avenue would help alleviate concerns about how the entrance would interact with the street; and
17. Ensure that there is a plan for adequate offsite parking that satisfies any additional demand from staff or visitors.



Mark Levine
Manhattan Borough President