

Testimony from Steve Marshall

To whom it may concern

My name is Steve Marshall I live on 30th Street New York City since 1975 I am writing you concerning the Penn Station expansion which if implemented will destroy our homes, livelihood and our entire neighborhood and thriving community.

I have been living on 30th Street which is slated for Destruction by this plan since 1975. When we moved in the city was bankrupt, in a gritty edgy working class artistic area we kept the city vibrant and created art and music scenes. As you know in the 70s many artists moved into half empty buildings throughout the city, fixing them up to live and work in. When I moved into the building Tommy Ramone lived on the second floor, the entire block was full of rehearsal recording studios with music stores everywhere & still thriving in the area, Rogue Music Steve Maxwell Drums ,30th street guitars,the New York Guitar School, artists that have lived in my building include Steve Gadd ,Ivan Kral and Crown heights affair had a studio in our building .The building next door 251 West 30th became known as the music building and even had a studio called Music Street Studios 30th street has been known as music Street for over 50 years Early on Harry Belafonte had the the entire 2nd floor of the music building. In the 70s thousands of musicians have utilized the music stores , rehearsed and recorded and lived on this block. A musical historical area .My son who has cerebral palsy was born here in 1979 and has lived here most of his life as well. In my loft we have a rehearsal /recording studio where we work with disabled musicians, many blind musicians from the 23rd Street Center called Visions Selis Manor and the Lighthouse for the Blind. For many years until the covid- epidemic we have done free music workshops for blind /disabled musicians, as the covid was being abated last year we performed outside at the Molly Wee Pub on the corner of 30th and 8th with blind disabled musicians We have done several Save music street /NorthChelsea events over the last few months with dozens of world class musicians involved including Will Lee Bassist for David Letterman, Arno Hecht Sax Rolling Stones Simon Kirke Drummer for Bad Company ,Steve Holley drummer for Paul McCartney to bring awareness to the situation .Over 150 artists emailed esd to stop their plan these were cc'ed to savemusicstreet@gmailcom so we have a record of Bernard Fowler From the Rolling Stones ,Simon Kirke from Bad Company,Judi Dozier from Billy Idol, Larry Russell from Billy Joel, Charles Roth from Ozzy Osbourne & hundreds more all sent emails to esd .Meanwhile we have donated thousands of hours of studio time to musicians performing at benefits over the years recently the America teen cancer benefits at The cutting room and City winery Als benefits ,I also volunteered for 5 hours of stage manager for no money to help the Tenn Cancer cause .My band has donated performances to Als annual Benefits on Long Island for 8 yrs & Harley Davidson of New York Bikers Against Breast Cancer for the last 16 yrs, many UCP,Wounded Warrior & New York Foundling Hospital events , as well as Hurricane Sandy ,Tsunami & 9/11 events this is the type of people whose industry and home you are destroying you are trying to destroy the music industry this is one of the few blocks left with any semblance of art and music happening in the city. Our block is a thriving artistic / working-class neighborhood. Several music stores and a music schools and music studios and many artists living in the area . Governor Cuomo did an obviously flawed or bogus study and in 2019 declared the area blighted of course

we weren't notified that we lived in a blighted area. esd Empire State development is disingenuously stating that the area is blighted which is an outright lie. Our building is an art deco building built in the thirties the same time as the Empire State Building and the post office . One of the things mentioned as a problem in the area is the homeless people, meanwhile there is the Antonio Olivieri homeless Center is on our block! we help homeless people! The St John the Baptist Church on our block helps homeless people everyday! The block has actually been known as music Street for many many years there are still several music stores on the Block and the New York Guitar school as well as the hundred fifty year old St John the Baptist church, apartment buildings, many people living in lofts in the area, thriving businesses in the area Gardenia deli, Pizza Suprema ,The Molly Wee Pub , the offices of The New York Restoration project founded by Bette Midler @254 W 31 st. hundreds of thriving businesses and people living here! many people living on the Block and a Starbucks, it is not blighted at all! We are hoping you will stop this obvious land grab by Vornado/ real estate interests. Thousands of people that live in the area estimated over 2,300 homes will be destroyed with this plan many will be made homeless. There are 13,000 jobs in the area slated for Destruction, so the destruction of our neighborhood can create more jobs? after making people homeless and destroying businesses and jobs that exist? They are trying to destroy our homes and livelihood! There were 2 zoom meetings during COVID lockdowns , Can you imagine what this is like during a covid epidemic! To get to defend your home waiting 9 hrs to speak & get 3-minutes on zoom call to defend your home ? imagine the stress level this is creating . Please stop this greed please stop the Penn Station expansion. Governor Hochul is endorsing destroying our own homes. Please stop trying to implement this plan that will destroy so many people's homes 2,300 homes being destroyed? Why is this a good plan? trying to push this through during the covid disaster, it's unconscionable what these people are doing. Especially trying to push this disaster to people's lives through during the covid pandemic this is insanity! there would be hundreds of people at meetings against this if everybody hadn't been locked down. I have lost four family members during this covid epidemic including the mother of my son who has cerebral palsy and my sister who were all helping with him. Now I have to go through this unimaginable stress trying to fight for our homes. We've never received a notice about it the only reason we even know about it is a couple of newspaper articles and people trying to band together in the community, and yet they are trying to try to sneak & push it through with total misrepresentations about the neighborhood about the people living here about all the jobs that will be destroyed and businesses that will be destroyed. I'm 71 and from a serious accident a few years ago I am also disabled, many of the people that will be displaced are seniors . This is unconscionable please put a stop to this. I've lived here for forty-five years seeing New York change and not in a good way, since rezoning gas stations and parking lots a few years ago the city has overbuilt everywhere they could install these hideous Towers . Funny how they didn't make a park where the parking lots or the gas stations used to be? Just hideous Towers everywhere. Hudson yards was over an empty train yard , now they've gotten even more and more greedy and don't mind destroying entire neighborhoods to get rid of people so they can put these giant Towers up ugly shade Towers. They want to destroy St John the Baptist church that's over 150 years old and is a work of art. and dozens of Art Deco buildings that are all in good shape, there's a

few buildings across 8th Avenue not even on our block also slated for Destruction that are run down and a few vacant the covid caused some closings and up until a year ago almost all were open and thriving . Vornado is attempting to destroy our neighborhood and communities leaving us homeless! Myself and my neighbors who are mostly elderly are out picketing in the middle of winter during covid epidemics! This is not progress this is the destruction of people's homes businesses and livelihoods and our sanity you are creating mental health issues in many people, do you see how crazy homeless people get ? do you wonder why? imagine getting your home destroyed would that make you a little crazy ? You could put these towers up anywhere and make money why don't you do it over Vornados owners house? This is an attack and assault on the citizens of New York. Putting towers over Vornados homes would create jobs good jobs be a big improvement , I'm sure you wouldn't like that yet at the cost of destroying thousands of people's homes lives and livelihoods you are doing that to other people.. Does this sound like a good plan? destroy entire blocks neighborhoods and communities to put up giant towers . Can you imagine the shock when 4,000 people find out their homes are going to be destroyed ? because this plan is being disguised as an improvement to Penn Station ? trying to sneak this plan through during a covid epidemic and no one knows about it many are in denial that it can it's despicable! most people don't know it's being pushed through in almost secrecy trying to camouflage it as a Penn Station repair and it has almost nothing to do with repairing Penn Station. You could build a whole new Penn Station for a billion dollars but you need seven 7 billion to destroy our homes ? It's a land grab probably one of the biggest in history , and there is no transparency at all. The public will be outraged the more this is brought to light, this is a bad plan. Penn Station expansion will destroy thriving communitys as if we are disposable what a terrible situation this is I hope you realize how awful this. I actually feel as if we are being terrorized, using the land grab to brutalize thousands of citizens of New York. Please prevent it! now we are spending all our energy trying to save our homes!! When we should be enjoying our lives, when we could be working with many of the disabled and blind musicians that we help, we're doing events this week with them to prevent this this is a despicable plan please stop it who is the person who came up with the plan? Robert Moses, Caligula, Nero? A plan that endorses destruction of 2,300 homes as an improvement and improvement for the rich? who is that person? Was it Coumo is that who it was? Because he got a lot of money from Vornado! He probably doesn't care about the book deal money he's still getting money from these people. this is insane what these people are trying to pull. So distressing what this is putting us through can you imagine the stress level if it was your homes? your families your friends being forced out of their homes ? I've been hospitalized from stress from what this plan is putting us through. please stop, Who could be so desensitized to other peoples lives and the suffering and distress this will cause that they would allow this plan to even be brought forward? Meanwhile there are many alternative plans. ie " through running " plans are being ignored seemingly on purpose The Penn Station Expansion is not a plan it's a life & livelihood.& community destroying land grab . Please Reconsider do unto others.