



Need a Great Doctor?

For an outstanding physician close to your home or work,

call (866) 318-8759. Over 4,000 physicians

are affiliated with the Continuum hospitals:

Beth Israel Medical Center; Roosevelt Hospital;

St. Luke's Hospital; Long Island College Hospital;

New York Eye & Ear Infirmary.

Convenient locations throughout Manhattan and Brooklyn.

Most insurances accepted.

www.chpnyc.org

Continuum Health Partners, Inc.

Beth Israel

**Roosevelt
Hospital**

**St. Luke's
Hospital**

**Long Island
College Hospital**

**NY Eye & Ear
Infirmary**

Permit Revoke Threat

Dept. acts on Park West Village project

By **Cody Derespina**

The Department of Buildings narrowly avoided being taken to court after it weighed in May 2 to objections to a construction project in the middle-income housing development Park West Village. The court date had been set for May 7.

Paul Bunten, a Park West Village resident for the past 20 years, had filed the lawsuit in an attempt to force the department to make a determination on a zoning challenge filed by Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer. After evaluating the challenge, the department didn't find any conflicts between the project and current zoning regulations, but it did find problems with parking spaces and curb cuts. In a letter to the project's applicant and contractor, the department issued an intent to revoke the project's permit unless "sufficient information is presented to the Department to demonstrate that the permit(s) should not be revoked."

Stringer originally filed his challenge in July 2007, and the significant delay between that challenge and the department's response was alluded to in the final sentence of the letter to Stringer's office.

"In closing, please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your letter," Manhattan Borough Commissioner Christopher Santulli wrote. "Please know that the Department remains committed to addressing the issues surrounding construction in New York City."

Bunten's attorney, Jack Lester, said the reason for the lawsuit was that the Board of Standards and Appeals couldn't review the project until the department weighed in on Stringer's challenge. Now that the department has responded, Lester said they will take up the issue with Standards and Appeals.

Beyond the legal action, Bunten and other residents have long complained about "Columbus Village," four residential luxury towers and several retail stores that are being built along

Columbus and Amsterdam avenues between West 97th and 100th streets. Once completed, the project will form the longest continuous pair of unbroken street walls in Manhattan, aside from the Javits Center. There are also complaints about the project's lack of open public space and increased shadows.

"We protested this for a very long time in our community," Bunten said. "We as community stakeholders know more



The Department of Buildings found potential problems with parking spaces and curb cuts at this construction project at Park West Village.

than anyone what is right for our community. We are stakeholders; we are the people who built this community."

Park West Village was created during the late 1950s and early 1960s as a residential community for middle-income residents. The village comprises about 2,500 apartments spread among seven buildings.

Bunten founded Westsiders for Public Participation, a group designed to educate residents on their legal rights. Keith Emmer, the group's communications director, said there shouldn't even be a need to support legal action.

"We shouldn't have to hold a neighborhood fundraiser," Emmer said, "to accomplish something that the DOB should be doing as part of its charter." n