Congressman Jerry Nadler, New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Council Member Helen Rosenthal, State Assemblymembers Linda B. Rosenthal and Richard Gottfried, and State Senator Brad Hoylman released the following statement about 200 Amsterdam on March 5th, 2020:

The de Blasio Administration’s decision to appeal the recent State Supreme Court ruling on 200 Amsterdam is shocking and disappointing.

First, the City’s appeal is not in line with its own actions and statements regarding the question of gerrymandered zoning lots. The New York City Department of Buildings has already acknowledged that they issued permits for 200 Amsterdam in error. And just two days ago, the DOB issued a “rule change” which clarified that “a newly formed zoning lot may not consist of parts of tax lots.”

It defies reason for the Administration to fight a court order which affirms its own correction of its initially flawed process.

Second, the Administration is taking affirmative action on behalf of a developer, SJP Properties, which had stipulated from their very first court appearance that they would continue construction at their own risk.

In other words, the developer persisted in building additional stories which they knew were potentially illegal. Now that a judge’s order has confirmed this, the Administration is siding with the developer, not its own rules and regulations.

What sort of message does this send to other developers?

We want to reiterate the significance of the recent New York State Supreme Court ruling. In 2018, twenty-six members of the City Council released a letter explaining how the use of gerrymandered zoning lots, as exemplified by 200 Amsterdam, had the potential to negatively impact the land use process for the entire city.
That’s why we applaud the DOB’s rule change, which supports a more transparent and predictable land use process.

The City undermined its own agency, however, when it invoked an automatic stay of Justice Perry’s order. Because of this, the DOB is not obligated to revoke the building permit, and issue a stop work order at the site. We call on the DOB to revoke the permit and issue the stop work order, so the stay does not worsen the situation rather than maintaining the status quo during the pendency of the appeal process.

The Administration should stand by its own rules, not with developers. We urge the Administration to reverse their decision.

March 5th, 2020