



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

SCOTT M. STRINGER
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

September 19, 2006

Dear Friend:

I am writing to inform you of a new housing initiative that my office began this summer—a **street-by-street survey of abandoned buildings and vacant lots in Manhattan**. In July, with help from community volunteers and community-based organizations, including Picture the Homeless, we completed surveys in six of Manhattan's Community Board Districts. In October, we will complete a survey of the rest of the borough. **I hope you will join me in the second phase of this count.**

Historically, New York City has been a leader in dealing with building abandonment. However, while the number of city-owned units has diminished significantly and building abandonment is no longer the problem it was in the 1970s, there remain private owners whose properties sit vacant or abandoned—evidenced by the over 1,000 vacant properties identified during the first phase of our survey. By stunting economic growth and detracting from the appearance of their blocks, these vacant buildings often negatively impact the neighborhoods in which they are located. In order to know how far we have come in the past 35 years and to better understand why abandoned buildings still exist in pockets of Manhattan despite the “hot” housing market, I am calling on volunteers to participate in this inventory.

I invite you to join us on **Saturday, October 14, 2006** as we conduct the street-by-street survey in Lower Manhattan, Tribeca, Chelsea, Clinton, Midtown, Murray Hill, Gramercy Park, the Upper East Side and the Upper West Side (Community Board Districts 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8). **Prior to beginning the count, volunteers will be asked to attend a morning training session and breakfast beginning at 9:30 am at 1 Centre Street, 19th Floor South.** During the training, volunteers will be assigned areas to survey and a survey team, and will be provided with packets of walking maps, survey instructions, and the survey tool. **Volunteers will reconvene at 1 Centre Street at 3 pm to return completed materials.**

If you would like to volunteer, please fully complete the enclosed Volunteer Registration Form and return it to my office at the listed address or fax number. If you have any questions about the Abandoned Building and Vacant Lot Survey, please call 212.669.3060. We will contact you before the count to reconfirm your participation. I look forward to working with you to identify under-utilized properties in an effort that will help communities across the borough.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott M. Stringer".

Scott M. Stringer
Manhattan Borough President

Quick Facts on Borough President Scott M. Stringer's Abandoned Building & Vacant Lot Count

- **What is the count?**

This summer the Office of Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer began a street-by-street survey of abandoned buildings and vacant lots in Manhattan. In July, with help from community volunteers and community-based organizations, including Picture the Homeless, we completed surveys in six of Manhattan's Community Board Districts. In October, we will finish up the borough, surveying Lower Manhattan, Tribeca, Chelsea, Clinton, Midtown, Murray Hill, Gramercy Park, the Upper East Side and the Upper West Side (Community Board Districts 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8).

- **Why should I be involved?**

We need volunteers to help with this groundbreaking project. Other cities, including Albany and Boston, conduct vacant building counts – and the results show that an inventory of abandoned buildings helps to expedite rehabilitation of those buildings. Also, outreach to landlords has provided a better understanding of why buildings are held vacant.

- **How can I help?**

What: Volunteer to join a survey team for the street-by-street count of abandoned buildings and vacant lots in Lower Manhattan, Tribeca, Chelsea, Clinton, Midtown, Murray Hill, Gramercy Park, the Upper East Side and the Upper West Side (Community Board Districts 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8).

When: Saturday, October 14, 2006 from 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Where: Breakfast and training begin at 9:30 AM on October 14th at 1 Centre Street, 19th Floor South

How: During the training session, volunteers will be assigned areas to survey and a survey team, and will be provided with packets of walking maps, survey instructions, and the survey tool. Following the training, survey teams will depart to conduct the count. **Volunteers will reconvene at 3:00 PM at 1 Centre Street to return completed materials.**



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ABANDONED BUILDING AND VACANT LOT COUNT VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

On **October 14, 2006** Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer will complete a borough-wide survey of abandoned buildings and vacant lots in Manhattan. To join him in surveying Lower Manhattan, Tribeca, Chelsea, Clinton, Midtown, Murray Hill, Gramercy Park, the Upper East Side and the Upper West Side (Community Board Districts 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8), please fully complete the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (Day/Evening): _____

Email: _____

Neighborhood I would prefer to survey: _____

Thank you for your interest. This form serves as confirmation of your attendance on October 14th. We look forward to seeing you at 1 Centre Street, 19th Floor South on Saturday at 9:30 AM!

RETURN BY FAX TO: (212) 669-3840, Attn: Ryan Galvin

RETURN BY EMAIL TO: RGalvin@manhattanbp.org

CALL IN VOLUNTEER CONFIRMATION: (212) 669-3060