I am writing in support of the New York University’s NYU Core plan. I don't think anyone today could imagine the Village without NYU, especially the small business community. From my point of view, NYU’s 16,000 employees and 40,000 students are the economic lifeblood for our neighborhood. It is estimated that NYU’s Washington Square campus directly and indirectly accounts for more than $2.25 billion in economy activity every year and nearly 25,000 jobs, both important to our city and its citizens.

The impact is even more pronounced at specific times of the year. During spring commencement, some 30,000 people spend time in the Village and another 15,000 visit during fall semester back-to-school days. The university hosts more than 50,000 prospective students and families every year for information sessions and tours. All these visitors utilize our hotels, restaurants and shops, supporting local merchants, strengthening our neighborhood’s economy and ensuring our neighborhood is a place where small businesses can thrive.

I believe that NYU Core is important for the economic future of Greenwich Village. A study issued last year by the prestigious Appleseed analysis firm showed that Greenwich Village's economy is fueled by its academic institutions and of course NYU is the biggest school in this important neighborhood. It is unimaginable to think what this area would like be if there were no NYU. Appleseed found that because of the presence of NYU and other institutions like the New School, Greenwich Village has an unusually high level of education among its residents, that higher education promotes new private investment in the Village and that the thousands of students generate commerce and trade for local businesses.

NYU Core will help the businesses in Greenwich Village and the surrounding area thrive in the coming years. I hope you will take my comments and suggestions into consideration as you review NYU’s proposal.

Friend Cafe & Deli, 10013
Duane Reade, 10012
Chipsy, 10012
Murphy & Gonzalez, 10003