May 2013

Proposal for Washington Square Village Community Uses on Ground Floor

New York University is required to designate 6,000 square feet on the ground floor of Washington Square Village (WSV) 4 for a community-oriented use. It was agreed that the space would be rented at below-market rates to one or more non-profit organizations. This agreement was made with the City Council as part of the NYU Core project, which received New York City Council approval in July 2012.

The proposal is presented below. The targeted uses are daycare and senior care.

Daycare Center Proposal

The space located in Washington Square Village 4 will be renovated to become a childcare center run by a partnership of Creative Steps and University Settlement. The entire area – from the lobby steps to the door along Mercer Street – will be designated for the facility (see attached site plans). Mercer Street will be used as the primary entrance in and out of the facility. The entire daycare area fulfills the 6,000 square foot commitment. The facility has been designed in collaboration with Creative Steps and University Settlement to ensure it meets their various goals and objectives.

- **Size of Program/Capacity:** The program would serve children ages 1 - 5 in five classrooms, for an approximate total of 75 full-time equivalents. This includes an infant room with capacity (at any one time) of 8 full-time equivalents, two classrooms with 20-child capacity, and two classrooms with 15-child capacity. Given the scheduling options, the actual number of children served could exceed 75. The Department of Health’s approval is required for the programs and the number of children expected to be served.

- **Program Schedule:** The current standard service of 9 am - 3 pm will be extended to 8 am - 6 pm. Parents will have several scheduling options from which to choose, and registration will be required in order to maximize the space’s efficiency. When fully operational, the program may also consider evening or emergency hour scheduling. The program will consist of 44 weeks of services per year and will following
the NYC Department of Education calendar. This includes a two-week break for the Holiday Season and New Year, one week for mid-winter break, and one week of spring break. The facility may also be closed in August since attendance is typically reduced during that period. The option of keeping one or more classrooms open during breaks and/or August will be considered if demand is sufficient.

Fees will be based on the selected schedule and partial scholarships will be available to reflect the needs of applicants. The new facility is slated to open in January 2014.

**Senior Care Proposal**

From a planning perspective, it made little sense to insert a second non-profit user into the same area in WSV 4 that will house the daycare facility. Therefore, in order to accommodate Councilmember Margaret Chin’s request to also provide space for the senior care organization Visiting Neighbors (VN), the University is additionally providing approximately 900 square feet of office space in Washington Square Village 3 (WSV 3).

Visiting Neighbors has provided crucial services to seniors in the community for 40 years. Two years ago, budget cuts at the Department for the Aging (DFTA) led to VN’s near closure, necessitating a relocation to borrowed space and a dramatic cut in staff. Throughout this time, however, the organization has continued to serve its population of over 500 seniors who reside predominantly in the Village and the Lower East Side. Visiting Neighbors has stated that it needs a more suitable office space and that it could better serve its clients from a space more central to its target populations. Its current temporary office space is at 14th Street and 8th Avenue on the outskirts of its service catchment area.

The WSV 3 ground floor could accommodate VN’s office space needs and bring it closer to the seniors whom the organization is serving. In addition, the program relies heavily on volunteers and the proximity to the NYU volunteer base should prove a benefit. VN will relocate sometime in the Fall of 2013.