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RPA STATEMENT ON NYU's ULURP ANNOUNCEMENT

(New York, NY) - Regional Plan Association - an independent planning organization representing the tri-state region - today released the following statement regarding New York University's announcement to seek a Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) application to include a building on Morton Williams's site in place of a fourth tower:

NYU has announced it is withdrawing its application for a fourth tower in the landmarked section of Greenwich Village known as Silver Towers and that it will now seek a ULURP application to include a building on the site currently occupied by the Morton Williams supermarket on the blocks near Washington Square Park, already owned by the University.

NYU is expected to file a standardized Land Use Review Application with the Department of City Planning under the ULURP in Fall 2011. A full ULURP process will be needed for the approval of the entire NYU proposal as it pertains to the Washington Square area.

"A strong and growing NYU is important to the well-being of the entire city and region," said Robert D. Yaro, President of Regional Plan Association. "But the University's campus expansion must be designed to minimize its impact on Greenwich Village, one of New York's iconic neighborhoods. This modified plan is a positive step that can help achieve the goals of sustaining a world-class university in a vibrant community. The ULURP process should proceed to move the plan forward and provide the necessary vetting with the Community Board, Borough President, City Planning Commission, City Council and residents of Greenwich Village and the city."