



GRAMERCY PARK BLOCK ASSOCIATION, INC.

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To: Our Neighbors on Gramercy Park
From: Arlene S. Harrison
President, Gramercy Park Block Association
Date: April 21, 2005
Subject: Security Measures at the Gramercy Park Hotel Construction Site

Over the past several weeks, many of you have expressed your concerns about the dangers present in the walkways surrounding the Gramercy Park Hotel construction site both on Gramercy Park North and on Lexington Avenue.

One of the major problems has been the individuals hanging out in the walkways both at night and in the early morning hours when no construction workers are present. Some of these individuals sleep there, some of them panhandle, and some simply harass people as they try to pass them. Some hide in the Hotel doorways within the walkways (one is on Gramercy Park North, and the other is at the Hotel entrance on Lexington Avenue) and can not be seen until they step out and confront you as you come close to them.

Many of our neighbors have felt threatened and have been terrified because they felt trapped in the walkways which have no easily available escape route once you enter them. In some cases, people were able to run away, and in some cases they were fortunate enough to have other pedestrians enter the walkway.

At one of my recent meetings with the Hotel management and the construction team, they agreed to add outdoor security personnel, and to activate regular increased outdoor security patrols at night. During a security survey with them I also pointed out two walkway openings where people could enter. One of them was adjacent to the garden in front of 60 Gramercy Park North, and the other was on Lexington Avenue. The management immediately had them boarded up.

There have also been many complaints about the dust from the demolition in the air, on the streets, and going into some apartments (particularly at 60 Gramercy Park North and 1 Lexington Avenue). Management has now agreed to water down the dumpsters during the demolition phase. This should significantly decrease the amount of dust going into the air. Also, a 60 GPN Board member complained to me about the rubbish being left at the construction site. There will now be additional daily clean-ups.

If you have additional concerns, please contact me at (212) 260-3875, or email me at arlenesharrison@yahoo.com.