

ALBANY OFFICE:  
Room 744  
Legislative Office Building  
Albany, New York 12248  
518-455-5676  
FAX: 518-455-5282  
DISTRICT OFFICE:  
1485 York Avenue  
New York, New York 10075  
212-288-4607  
FAX: 212-288-4369  
EMAIL:  
seawright@nyassembly.gov

REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT  
76<sup>th</sup> District



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK

CHAIR  
Task Force on  
Women's Issues  
COMMITTEES  
Banks  
Codes  
Corporations, Authorities  
and Commissions  
Education  
Judiciary  
Ways and Means  
MEMBER  
Legislative Women's Caucus

**A statement by Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright regarding the proposed Upper East Side Blood Center Tower:**

*"It is with the highest concern for our community, and its residents that I oppose the Upper East Side Blood Center Tower project. I fully support the advancement of life science research, and the innovations it brings but I cannot support the upzoning of our residential neighborhood. Neighbors have been sounding the alarm of concerns for their quality of life of the proposed 334-foot glass tower. Traffic congestion is imminent, making doctors, teachers and other professionals late to essential work. We cannot set the dangerous precedent of building out-of-scale towers, casting a shadow over one of our most beloved St. Catherine's Park, the Julia Richman Education Complex and the surrounding east sixties neighborhood.*

*We are informed that the Blood Center will occupy just 35% of the building while the rest of the space will be leased by the life sciences developer Longfellow to undisclosed commercial tenants. We were not informed by the developers, but by our local FRIENDS of the Upper East Side Historic Districts that these spaces have the potential to house biosafety level 3 (BSL-3) labs, intended to handle dangerous pathogens and microorganisms capable of causing potentially lethal infections, raising a deep concern for public safety.*

*I urge our community to attend the public hearing by Community Board 8, which will be as early as April 2021, and call on their City leaders including their Council Member and Mayor to oppose this ill-advised proposal."*