

## **Just Say No**

To the Editor,

The Committee to Save St. Paul's urges concerned residents to oppose the extreme solutions of massive commercial overdevelopment or demolition of our irreplaceable historic building. We suggest, "Just say no" – NO to AvalonBay and NO to demolition. A better solution exists: Preserve St. Paul's for future public use. The Committee to Save St. Paul's asks you to consider the following:

### **Why is AvalonBay a bad deal?**

The Village gets almost nothing in return: no dedicated public space, no lease payments, ridiculously low PILOTs (Payments In Lieu of Taxes), and overdevelopment and new construction. Residents will lose acres of open space, public parking for the fields, and the chance to make St. Paul's into the centerpiece of our community.

### **Why is demolition a bad idea?**

Demolition would destroy a monument to the Village's founder, Alexander T. Stewart. The main building is listed on the National Register for Historic Places and was named one of the Preservation League of New York State's 2003 "Seven to Save." Once the wrecking ball comes in, it can't be undone. Taxpayers will have to pay through the nose for the wreckage, about \$7,000,000. Then, we will pay for the conversion of the site into a new use.

### **Why haven't alternatives been presented?**

Feasible alternatives have been presented on many occasions, but they have been thwarted by pie-in-the-sky development schemes that would have only benefited commercial interests and ignored the needs of our residents. We could have had a new Village Hall by now, or a state-of-the-art library, or a community center for seniors and teens, with supporting mixed uses that included senior apartments to help pay for the renovation. All were shot down without good cause.

### **Where do we go from here?**

Tell your trustees that you vote 'no' on the AvalonBay giveaway and 'no' on demolition. Next, tell your POA representatives and your trustees to work together with preservation groups, interested community members, the Committee to Save St. Paul's and Families for St. Paul's to come up with an affordable, practical solution to save our Village Treasure. And finally, tell your state representatives in Albany that you favor preservation and oppose extreme solutions.

Members of the Executive Committee  
of The Committee to Save St. Paul's  
(Peter Negri, Ed Keating, Michael Ciaffa and Frank McDonough)