

## The Future of the City

In urging the re-election of John V. Lindsay to a second term as Mayor of New York, we fully recognize that this city faces social, economic and organizational problems that no one man can solve, and furthermore that some of these problems have actually worsened during Mayor Lindsay's first four years.

But we believe that Mayor Lindsay alone of the candidates has the understanding, the philosophy and the ability to cope with these problems, and that, indeed—unsatisfactory as are many aspects of the city today—Mayor Lindsay has succeeded in holding New York together and in giving it positive, hopeful direction out of the despond into which it, along with many other major American cities, had begun to sink.

Mayor Lindsay now has the experience, as he has always had the vision and the courage, to create unity and coherence out of this vast conglomerate of disparate people and conflicting interests called New York. He has demonstrated in word and action not only concern for but also comprehension of the needs of the inner city, no less than the demands of the peripheral areas. He has become a national symbol of the fight for recognition of the fact that no great city is an island unto itself but each is an integral part of state and nation, and must be so treated.

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In many of the most vital areas of municipal government, ranging from fiscal and economic affairs to education, parks and pollution, the Lindsay administration has made concrete and specific progress. In no field has it done more than in the broad and fundamental area of planning and urban design—which is the concrete expression of the vision of the city's future. Alone among the candidates for the mayoralty, Mr. Lindsay seems to have a comprehensive grasp of the long-range factors that will determine the city's rise or fall.

The decisions taken for effective urban planning usually involve a certain amount of high political risk, but the Lindsay administration has forged ahead where others have feared to tread. This has involved not just the question of leadership but of broad outlook and professional expertise, all exceptional political commodities. The Lindsay record is remarkable in setting up administrative, design and legal machinery to deal with New York's physical planning problems.

The city's long awaited master plan has been completed. It will be politically explosive; this would not be so if it were not a strong and extremely significant document. Its objective has been to make this huge and complex city graspable, and to set up a series of priorities in realistic, humane and, most important, immediately operable terms.

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Urban design has been dealt with in a way that makes it possible for the first time to foresee city trends and draft solutions. The city's zoning laws have been revised and reshaped to make New York a better place to live and work, not just reduce it to a profitable pulp. The city has moved forward decisively with community participation and planning. Urban renewal processes have been radically revised.

Special development offices have been established to coordinate massive private construction within a framework of public order and benefit. This is not only a novelty in New York, but a critical necessity. Controller Procaccino in his housing statement would eliminate the new planning offices for the sake of economy. Never in the city's history would false economy exact a more formidable price.

Agreements have been reached with the state for the kind of planned, large-scale development that is one major answer to the city's needs: The Battery Park City and Welfare Island projects. Design standards have been notably elevated in all projects—something that takes a herculean effort in New York.

There have been errors, failures and omissions but there has been measurable progress and a revolution in policy that has brought the city into the twentieth century. At stake with the Lindsay administration's urban policies is the future of New York in the largest sense.