



Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Eric Adams, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Daniel R. Garodnick, Chair

Chapter 5 - Special Downtown Jamaica District (DJ)

File generated by <https://zr.planning.nyc.gov> on 5/15/2025

Chapter 5 - Special Downtown Jamaica District (DJ)

115-00 - GENERAL PURPOSES

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

The "Special Downtown Jamaica District" established in this Resolution is designed to promote and protect the public health, safety and general welfare of the Downtown Jamaica community. These general goals include, among others, the following specific purpose:

- (a) to strengthen the business core of Downtown Jamaica by improving the working and living environments;
 - (b) to foster development in Downtown Jamaica and provide direction and incentives for further growth where appropriate;
 - (c) to encourage the development of affordable housing;
 - (d) to expand the retail, entertainment and commercial character of the area around the transit center and to enhance the area's role as a major transportation hub in the City;
 - (e) to provide transitions between the downtown commercial core, the lower-scale residential communities and the transportation hub;
 - (f) to improve the quality of development in Downtown Jamaica by requiring the provision of specified public amenities in appropriate locations;
 - (g) to encourage the design of new buildings that are in character with the area;
 - (h) to enhance the pedestrian environment by relieving sidewalk congestion and providing pedestrian amenities; and
 - (i) to promote the most desirable use of land and thus conserve and enhance the value of land and buildings, and thereby protect the City's tax revenues.
-

115-01 - General Provisions

LAST AMENDED
10/7/2021

In harmony with the general purposes and content of this Resolution and the general purposes of the #Special Downtown Jamaica District#, the regulations of this Chapter shall apply within the #Special Downtown Jamaica District#. The regulations of all other chapters of this Resolution are applicable except as modified, supplemented or superseded by the provisions of this Chapter. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this Chapter and other regulations of this Resolution, the provisions of this Chapter shall control. However, for #transit-adjacent sites# or #qualifying transit improvement sites#, in the event of a conflict between the provisions of this Chapter and the provisions of Article VI, Chapter 6 (Special Regulations Applying Around Mass Transit Stations), the provisions of Article VI, Chapter 6 shall control. For the purposes of this paragraph, defined terms additionally include those in Section [66-11](#) (Definitions).

Any special permit granted by the City Planning Commission before September 10, 2007, may be started or continued, in accordance with the terms thereof, or as such terms may be subsequently modified, pursuant to the regulations in effect at the time such special permit was granted, subject to the provisions of Sections [11-42](#) (Lapse of Authorization or Special Permit Granted by the City Planning Commission Pursuant to the 1961 Zoning Resolution) and [11-43](#) (Renewal of Authorization or Special Permit).

115-02 - District Plan and Maps

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

The regulations of this Chapter implement the #Special Downtown Jamaica District# Plan.

The District Plan includes the following maps in the Appendix to this Chapter:

- | | |
|-------|---|
| Map 1 | Special Downtown Jamaica District |
| Map 2 | Ground Floor Use and Transparency and Curb Cut Restrictions |
| Map 3 | Street Wall Location |
| Map 4 | Maximum Building Height |
| Map 5 | Sidewalk Widening |

The maps are hereby incorporated and made part of this Resolution for the purpose of specifying locations where the special regulations and requirements set forth in the text of this Chapter apply.

115-03 - Applicability of the Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Program

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

For the purposes of applying the Inclusionary Housing Program provisions set forth in Section [27-10](#) (ADMINISTRATION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING), inclusive, #Mandatory Inclusionary Housing areas# within the #Special Downtown Jamaica District# are shown on the maps in APPENDIX F of this Resolution.

115-10 - SPECIAL USE REGULATIONS

LAST AMENDED
6/6/2024

In the #Special Downtown Jamaica District#, the #use# regulations of the underlying district shall apply except as modified in this Section, inclusive. The #use# regulations of the underlying C4-5X, C6 and M1-4 Districts relating to #public parking garages# are modified in Section [115-11](#). The #use# regulations of the underlying C6-4 District relating to Use Group IX are modified in Section [115-12](#). Special streetscape regulations shall apply pursuant to Section [115-14](#). The #use# regulations of the underlying M1-4 District are modified as specified in Section [115-13](#).

In addition, the provisions of paragraph (d) of Section [32-422](#) (Location of floors occupied by commercial uses) shall be modified such that eating or drinking establishments listed under Use Group VI shall be permitted on a #story# above #dwelling units#.

115-11 - Public Parking Garages

LAST AMENDED
6/6/2024

In the #Special Downtown Jamaica District#, the #use# regulations of the underlying C4-5X, C6-2, C6-3, C6-4 and M1-4 Districts shall be modified to permit #public parking garages# with a capacity of 150 spaces or less, as-of-right, subject to the provisions set forth for #accessory# off-street parking spaces in Sections [36-53](#) (Width of Curb Cuts and Location of Access to the Street), [36-55](#) (Surfacing) and [36-56](#) (Screening). #Public parking garages# may be open or enclosed, provided that no portion of such #use# shall be located on a roof other than a roof which is immediately above a #cellar# or #basement#, except as provided by the special permit provisions of Section [74-194](#) (Parking garages or public parking lots in high density central areas).

115-12 - Use Group IX in C6-4 Districts

LAST AMENDED
6/6/2024

In C6-4 Districts, the size limitations applicable to wholesale establishments listed under Use Group IX(A), as set forth in paragraph (e)(2) of Section [32-193](#) (Use Group IX – uses subject to size limitations) shall not apply.

115-13 - Modification of Use Regulations in M1-4 Districts

LAST AMENDED
6/6/2024

The #use# regulations of the underlying M1-4 District shall apply, except as follows:

- (a) all #uses# listed under Use Group III(B) shall be permitted;
- (b) #uses# listed under Use Group VI with a size limitation, as denoted with an “S” in the Use Group tables set forth in Section [42-16](#) (Use Group VI – Retail and Services), shall be permitted without size limitation;
- (c) #uses# listed under Use Groups IV(B), IX and X shall be limited to those permitted within M1 Districts in #Special Mixed Use Districts#, as set forth in Section [123-20](#) (SPECIAL USE REGULATIONS), inclusive; and
- (d) such permitted #uses# listed under Use Groups IV(B), IX and X, along with #uses# in Use Group VI that are listed in paragraph (c) of Section [42-163](#) (Use Group VI – uses subject to additional conditions) shall be located within a #completely enclosed building#.

115-14 - Streetscape Regulations

LAST AMENDED
6/6/2024

The underlying #ground floor level# streetscape provisions set forth in Section [32-30](#) (STREETSCAPE REGULATIONS), inclusive, shall apply, except that #ground floor level# #street# frontages along #streets#, or portions thereof, designated on Map 2 (Ground Floor Use and Transparency and Curb Cut Restrictions) in Appendix A of this Chapter shall be considered #Tier C street frontages#. In addition to the underlying provisions, #ground floor level# frontages on #Tier C street frontages# shall provide a major #building# entrance onto such #street#, except that where #zoning lot# has frontage on more than one #Tier C street frontage#, a major #building# entrance need only be located on one #street# frontage.

Defined terms in this Section include those in Sections [12-10](#) and 32-301.

115-20 - SPECIAL BULK REGULATIONS

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

The underlying #bulk# provisions shall apply except as modified in this Section, inclusive.

115-21 - Floor Area Ratio

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

(a) Maximum #floor area ratio# for #zoning lots# containing non-#residential uses#

In C6-2 and C6-3 Districts, the maximum #floor area ratio# permitted for #commercial# and #community facility uses#, separately or in combination, shall not exceed 6.0 in C6-2 Districts and 8.0 in C6-3 Districts.

In C6-4 Districts, for #commercial uses#, the maximum #floor area ratio# shall be 12.0.

In M1-4 Districts, the maximum #floor area ratio# permitted for #commercial#, #community facility# or #manufacturing uses#, separately or in combination, shall be 2.0.

(b) Maximum #floor area ratio# for #zoning lots# containing #residential uses#

The maximum #residential# #floor area ratio# shall be as set forth by the underlying district regulations. However, #sky exposure plane buildings# shall not be permitted.

(c) #Floor area# bonus

For #developments# or #enlargements# on #qualifying transit improvement sites#, a #floor area# bonus for #mass transit station# improvements may be granted by the City Planning Commission pursuant to the provisions of Section [66-51](#) (Additional Floor Area for Mass Transit Station Improvements). No other #floor area# bonuses shall apply. For the purposes of this paragraph, defined terms additionally include those in Section [66-11](#) (Definitions).

115-22 - Modification of Rear Yard Regulations

LAST AMENDED
10/29/2007

#Rear yard# requirements shall not apply to non-#residential uses# along such portion of a #lot line# that coincides with a boundary of a railroad right-of-way, or in any portion of a C6-4 District.

115-23 - Height and Setback Regulations

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

The underlying height and setback regulations shall apply except as modified by the provisions of this Section, inclusive.

For #zoning lots# subject to the sidewalk widening requirements of Section [115-31](#), the boundary of the sidewalk widening furthest from the #street line# shall be considered the #street line# for the purposes of applying all height and setback regulations.

All heights shall be measured from the #base plane#.

115-231 - Permitted obstructions

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

The provisions of Section [33-42](#) (Permitted Obstructions) shall apply to all #buildings# within the #Special Downtown Jamaica District#, except that dormers may penetrate a maximum base height in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b)(1) of Section [23-413](#) (Permitted obstructions in certain districts).

115-232 - Street wall location

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

C4 C6

In the districts indicated, #street walls# shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

(a) For #zoning lot# frontages designated on Map 3 (Street Wall Location) in Appendix A of this Chapter the #street wall# location provisions of paragraph (a) of Section [35-631](#) shall apply. For the purposes of applying the #street wall# location provisions of this Section, all #streets# shall be considered as #wide street#; and

(b) For all other #zoning lot# frontages, the #street wall# location provisions of paragraph (b) of Section [35-631](#) shall apply.

However, such #street walls# need only extend to a minimum base height of 40 feet.

No #street wall# location requirements shall apply to any open space fronting on Sutphin Boulevard between 94th and 95th Avenues provided pursuant to the Jamaica Gateway Urban Renewal Plan, as shown on Map 3.

For #building# walls facing Archer Avenue on Blocks 9988 and 9994, the #street walls# required pursuant to this paragraph (b) shall not be located along the Archer Avenue #street line#, but shall instead be located along the northern boundary of the Public Place mapped on each such block. However, if the Public Place is not mapped on Block 9994, then the #street wall# shall be located on a line perpendicular to 147th Place and passing through a point 51.77 feet distant (as measured along the southwesterly #street line# of 147th Place)

from the corner of the northeasterly #street line# of Archer Avenue and the southwesterly #street line# of 147th Place. To accommodate the #development# of a one #story# #building# which may be located within each Public Place, such #street walls# shall have no #building# entrances or windows up to a height of 30 feet within 100 feet of 147th Place on Block 9994 and within 100 feet of 146th Street on Block 9988.

115-233 - Maximum building height

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

C4 C6

The maximum base height for #buildings# shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of Section 23-43, inclusive, for the applicable #residential equivalent#, except that the minimum base height shall be 40 feet. At a height not lower than the minimum base height or higher than the maximum base height specified for the applicable district, a setback shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of Section 23-433 (Standard setback regulations).

After setback, the maximum #building# heights shall as set forth in Section 23-43, inclusive, for the applicable #residential equivalent#, except that:

- (a) in C6-2 and C6-3 Districts, no #building or other structure# shall exceed a height of 250 feet. However, no maximum #building# height limitation shall apply on Block 9993, shown on Map 4 (Maximum Building Height) in Appendix A of this Chapter, if such #block# is #developed# or if a #building# on such #block# is #enlarged#, pursuant to the Jamaica Gateway Urban Renewal Plan; and
- (b) in C6-4 Districts, no #building or other structure# shall exceed a height of 290 feet.

115-30 - MANDATORY IMPROVEMENTS

LAST AMENDED
9/10/2007

115-31 - Sidewalk Widening

LAST AMENDED
4/9/2013

The provisions of this Section shall apply to all #developments# fronting upon locations requiring sidewalk widenings as shown on Map 6 (Sidewalk Widening) in Appendix A of this Chapter. A sidewalk widening is a continuous, paved open area along the #street line# of a #zoning lot# having a depth of two feet or five feet, as set forth on Map 6. Such depth shall be measured perpendicular to the #street line#. Sidewalk widenings shall be improved as sidewalks to Department of Transportation standards, at the same level as the adjoining public sidewalk and directly accessible to the public at all times. No #enlargement# shall be permitted to decrease the depth of such sidewalk to less than such minimum required total sidewalk depth.

All mandatory sidewalk widenings must provide lighting in accordance with the requirements of Section 37-743, except that the minimum level of illumination shall be not less than two horizontal foot candles throughout the entire mandatory sidewalk widening.

115-40 - SPECIAL OFF-STREET PARKING AND OFF-STREET LOADING REGULATIONS

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

115-41 - Parking and Loading Regulations

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

Within the #Special Downtown Jamaica District#, the underlying off-street parking and loading regulations shall be modified, as follows:

- (a) #Commercial# and #manufacturing uses#.

In C4, C6 and M1 Districts, the off-street parking and loading regulations of a C4-4 District shall apply, except as modified in this Section.

- (1) For any #use# that is not allowed in a C4 District, the underlying off-street parking requirements of the applicable C6-2, C6-3, C6-4 or M1-4 District shall apply.
- (2) In C4, C6 and M1 Districts, the provisions of Sections 36-12 and 44-12 (Maximum Size of Accessory Group Parking Facilities) shall be modified to permit an #accessory# #group parking facility# to contain up to 300 off-street parking spaces. Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 36-13 and 46-13 (Modification of Maximum Size of Accessory Group Parking Facilities), the Commissioner of Buildings may permit such #group parking facility# to contain up to 150 additional spaces.
- (3) In C4, C6 and M1 Districts, the provisions of Section 36-21 (General Provisions) pertaining to #accessory# off-street parking spaces for #commercial# or #community facility uses# shall be modified as follows: #uses# in Use Groups VII and IX, with parking requirement category A3, shall be required to provide one parking space per 2,000 square feet of #floor area#.
- (4) Modification of Waiver of Parking Requirements
 - (i) In C4, C6 and M1 Districts, the provisions of Sections 36-23 (Waiver of Requirements for Spaces Below Minimum Number) and 44-23 (Waiver of Requirements for Spaces Below Minimum Number or Certain Small Zoning Lots, Developments or Enlargements) shall only apply to #zoning lots# existing

both on September 10, 2007 and on the date of application for a building permit.

- (ii) In C4, C6 and M1 Districts, for any #commercial# #use# permitted in a C4 or C6 District, the waiver provisions for a C4-4 District set forth in Section [36-232](#) (In districts with very low parking requirements) shall not apply. In lieu thereof, the maximum number of #accessory# off-street parking spaces for which requirements are waived shall be 15 spaces, pursuant to the waiver provisions for a C4-2 District set forth in Section [36-231](#) (In districts with high, medium or low parking requirements).

(b) #Residential uses#

- (1) The provisions of Section [25-12](#) (Maximum Size of Accessory Group Parking Facilities) shall be modified to permit an #accessory# #group parking facility# to contain up to 300 off-street parking spaces. Pursuant to the provisions of Section [25-13](#) (Modification of Maximum Size of Accessory Group Parking Facilities), the Commissioner of Buildings may permit such #group parking facility# to contain up to 150 additional spaces.
- (2) The provisions of Sections [25-52](#) (Off-site Spaces for Residences) and [25-521](#) (Maximum distance from zoning lot) shall be modified to permit the location of off-street parking spaces #accessory# to #residences# on a #zoning lot# other than the same #zoning lot# as the #residences# to which such spaces are #accessory#, provided that such #zoning lot# is no more than 1,500 feet from the nearest boundary of the #zoning lot# occupied by the #residences# to which they are #accessory#.
- (3) The provisions of Section [36-42](#) (Off-site Spaces for Residences) and [36-421](#) (Maximum distance from zoning lot) shall be modified to permit the location of off-street parking spaces #accessory# to #residences# on a #zoning lot# other than the same #zoning lot# as the #residences# to which such spaces are #accessory#, provided that such #zoning lot# is no more than 1,500 feet from the nearest boundary of the #zoning lot# occupied by the #residences# to which they are #accessory#.

115-42 - Location of Access to the Street

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

Curb cuts shall be prohibited at locations specified as #Tier C street frontages# on Map 2 (Ground Floor Use and Transparency and Curb Cut Restrictions) in Appendix A of this Chapter.

However, where permitted or required #accessory# off-street parking and loading requirements apply in a location where such curb cuts are prohibited, a curb cut may be allowed, provided that the City Planning Commission certifies to the Commissioner of Buildings that such #zoning lot# has access only to such prohibited location and that such curb cut shall be no greater than 20 feet in width.

An application to the City Planning Commission for certification respecting such curb cut shall be accompanied by a site plan drawn to a scale of at least one sixteenth inch to a foot, showing the size and location of the proposed curb cut.

The waiver provisions of Article III, Chapter 6 (Accessory Off-street Parking and Loading Regulations), shall not apply to the special location of access requirements of this Section.

115-43 - Authorization for Curb Cut

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

Between 160th Street and a point 205 feet east of 160th Street along Archer Avenue, The City Planning Commission may authorize, subject to the applicable zoning district regulations, curb cuts that are prohibited by Section [115-42](#) (Location of Access to the Street), provided the Commission finds that a curb cut at such location:

- (a) is not hazardous to traffic safety;
- (b) will not create or contribute to serious traffic congestion, or unduly inhibit vehicular movement;
- (c) will not adversely affect pedestrian movement;
- (d) will not interfere with the efficient functioning of bus lanes, specially designated #streets# and public transit facilities; and
- (e) will not be inconsistent with the character of the existing streetscape.

The Commission may prescribe appropriate conditions and safeguards to minimize adverse effects on the character of the surrounding area.

115-50 - SPECIAL PERMIT TO MODIFY USE OR BULK REGULATIONS

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

For any #zoning lot# within the #Special Downtown Jamaica District#, the City Planning Commission may permit modification of the #use# or #bulk# regulations, except #floor area ratio# provisions, provided the Commission shall find that such:

- (a) #use# or #bulk# modification will aid in achieving the general purposes and intent of the Special District;
- (b) #use# modification will encourage a lively pedestrian environment along the #street# or mandatory sidewalk widening, or is necessary for, and the only practicable way to achieve, the programmatic requirements of the development;
- (c) #bulk# modifications will enhance the distribution of #bulk# on the #zoning lot#;
- (d) #bulk# modifications will permit adequate access of light and air to surrounding #streets# and properties; and

(e) #use# or #bulk# modification will relate harmoniously to the character of the surrounding area.

The Commission may prescribe appropriate conditions and safeguards to minimize adverse effects on the character of the surrounding area.

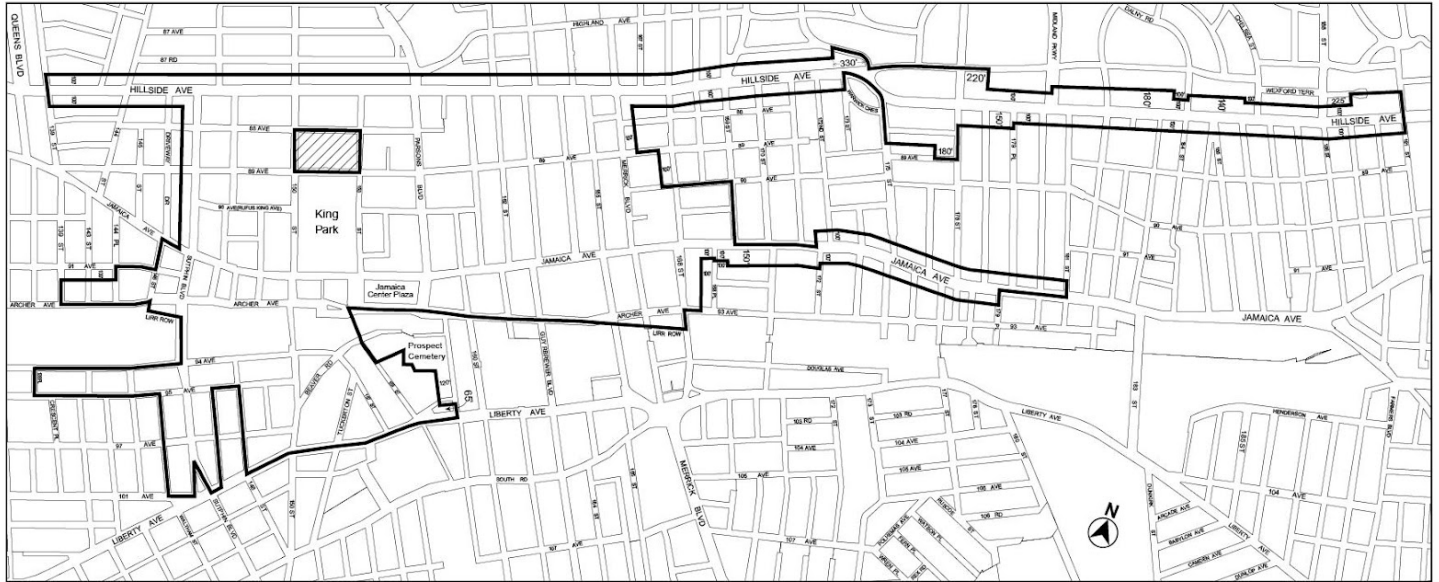
Appendix A - Special Downtown Jamaica District Maps



LAST AMENDED

12/5/2024

(11/23/21)

Map 1 — Special Downtown Jamaica District



-  Special Downtown Jamaica District
-  Excluded area

(4/9/13)

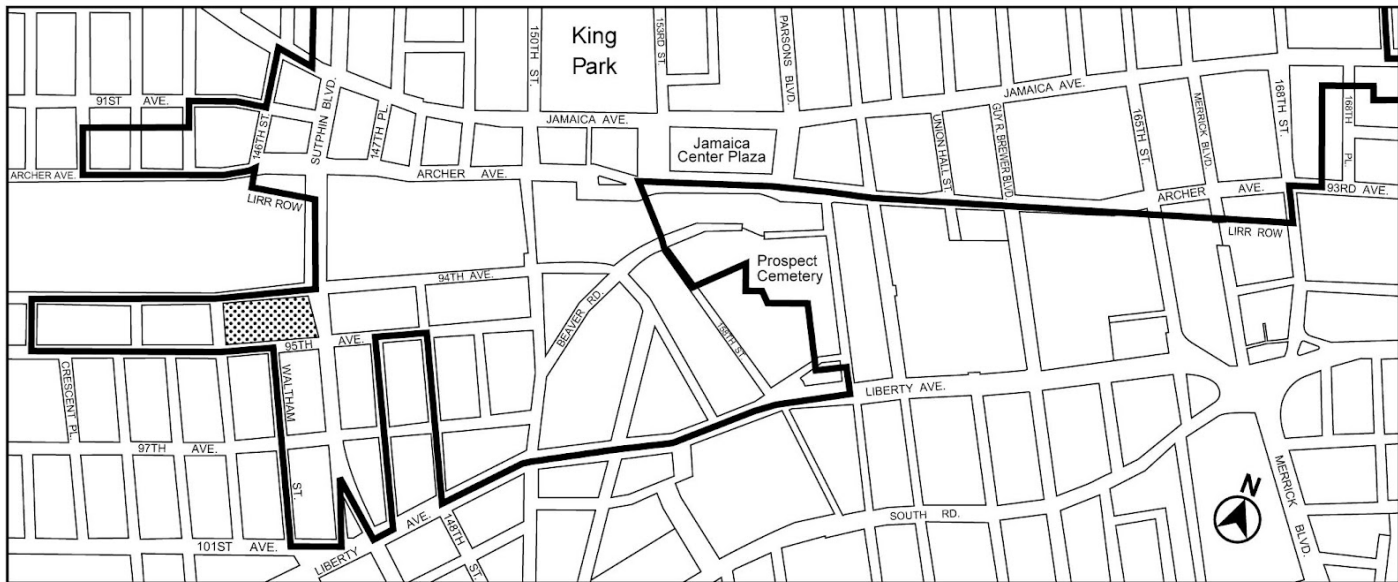
Map 2 — Ground Floor Use and Transparency and Curb Cut Restrictions

(12/5/24)

Map 3 — Street Wall Location

(9/10/07)

Map 4 — Maximum Building Height

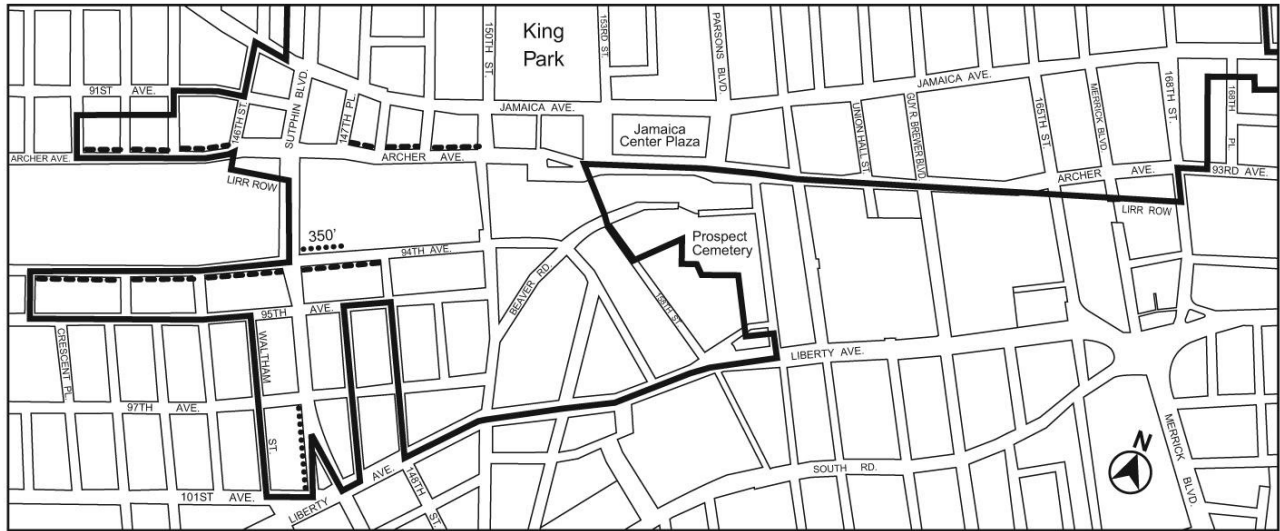


— Special Downtown Jamaica District

▨ No Building Height Limit

(4/9/13)

Map 5 — Sidewalk Widening



- Special Downtown Jamaica District
- 2' Sidewalk Widening
- 5' Sidewalk Widening

