

Dear Member of the 61st Street Community Garden --

I hope that spring has finally come and that the garden will give you as much pleasure this coming year as it has given us in years past.

I would like to give you some information about the future of the community garden. Last week I received a letter from Sonya Malunda, Associate Vice President at the University of Chicago. The UofC is the owner of the community garden property and Ms Malunda has been our contact with the University. I have attached the letter for you to read. In brief the letter tells us that:

- the University plans to clear the site of the garden in the fall of this year
- although the University does not plan to build the new Chicago Theological Seminary building where the garden is, the University will use the garden site for staging during construction
- the University would be willing to help relocate the community garden to a new site.
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I am sure community garden members will have a broad range of reactions to this news. The garden has meant a great many important things to a great many people during the past years. It has been not just a place to grow vegetables but also a civic space of real community value. I hope that we can have an open and candid conversation that will help us plan for the future of the community garden. I am also sure that Ms Malunda would be willing to join our conversation as we proceed. If you would like to share your reactions now about the issue of the garden's future with the other gardeners, please write to: info@61streetgarden.org. Your email will then be sent to all the members of the garden community. Or, if you have trouble with the website you may send your comments to my email above. It would certainly be possible to organize a garden community meeting if gardeners would find that helpful.

Thank you for being a community gardener and happy spring,
-- Jack Spicer