Dear Mr. Bezos:

We, as a united body of elected officials, urge Amazon to make New York City the home of its second corporate headquarters. As the most dynamic and diverse city in the world, New York City will help propel Amazon’s future growth and kickstart an exciting new chapter in the company’s history. And we know that, no matter which city neighborhood it might choose for its new headquarters, Amazon will be a strong contributor to our civic and commercial life.

Put simply, no place has more to offer Amazon than New York City. Our five boroughs are hives of ingenuity—we have over 9,000 startups and more Fortune 500 companies than any other city in the nation. New York City firms receive more venture capital funding than nearly any other metro area. We are also the nation’s largest academic hub, with 105 institutions of higher learning and world-class teaching hospitals that are shaping the future of healthcare.

For these reasons and others, New York City is able to offer the single most important resource a growing company requires: talent. New Yorkers are an unbelievably skilled group. Amazon will be able to source 50,000 new employees immediately from the city’s growing, educated, and diverse workforce, the largest and most talented in North America. Of the 8.5 million New Yorkers, 3.3 million are immigrants hailing from 150 countries. There are more New Yorkers with a bachelor's degree or above than in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Washington, D.C., and Atlanta combined. We are home to industry leaders in tech, law, media, and medicine. And we are making sure that the next generation of New Yorkers is prepared for the 21st century economy by integrating computer science education at every level of the academic pipeline.

Moreover, New York City continues to grow: by 2040, we will be home to 9 million people eager to share their skills and build their futures here.

What else separates New York City from the competition?

- Accessibility: We are the heart of the Boston-Washington corridor, the most heavily urbanized region of the country. New York City is already Amazon’s largest market for Prime, and an early adopter market for services like Prime Now. By putting HQ2 in New York City, the company will have direct access to 52 million residents of our metro area. And with three regional international airports, the entire world is only a plane ride away.

- Affordability: New York City is making unprecedented investments in housing, childcare, and transportation to make it more affordable for everyone. Since 2014, the city has financed over 75,000 affordable units of housing, significant progress towards our 200,000-unit 10-year goal. Our housing options are diverse and span the five boroughs and the metropolitan region. We have all types and price points for junior engineers and senior executives alike. Moreover, New York City is one of the few places that offer high-quality universal, full-day pre-kindergarten for every 4-year-old. And our world-class public transportation system helps residents save thousands of dollars each year.

- Infrastructure: With the largest subway and bike-sharing systems in the world, a first-rate bus system, and a new ferry service, New York City has the transportation infrastructure Amazon needs to thrive. We also are the most walkable city in the country, and have miles of greenways and bike lanes. New York is upgrading its airports to remain a leading global transportation and freight hub. By 2020, all three of New York’s airports will have undergone extensive renovations and enhancements. To date, more than $20 billion has been committed to these projects.

- Sustainability: Like Amazon, New York City is committed to being a leader in sustainability. New Yorkers know being green isn’t just the right thing to do; it also improves the city’s economic output and creates stronger, more resilient communities. In September 2014, the city committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80 percent by 2050, with the goal of curbing the most devastating effects of climate change. The following year, we put forth a plan to ensure we were setting a global standard for urban growth and sustainability. Called OneNYC, the plan includes a roadmap for shoring up our transportation infrastructure and making our buildings more energy efficient.
No city embodies the American traditions of innovation and creativity quite like New York City. It has transformed from a Dutch settlement, to the nation’s first capital, to a booming industrial center. It became a port of hope for millions of immigrants looking for a better life, and a model for urban revitalization. From Broadway, the Bronx Zoo and the Brooklyn Bridge, to Citi Field and the shores of Staten Island, New York City is a place where history is made every day. Our tradition of reinvention matches yours, and we invite you to join us in writing our next chapters together.

Sincerely,

Public Advocate Letitia James

City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

Queens Borough President Melinda Katz

Staten Island Borough President James Oddo

Representative Eliot Engel

Representative Jose Serrano

Representative Jerrold Nadler

Representative Carolyn Maloney

Representative Nydia Velázquez

Representative Gregory Meeks

Representative Joseph Crowley

Representative Yvette Clarke

Representative Hakeem Jeffries

Representative Grace Meng

Representative Daniel Donovan Jr.

Representative Adriano Espaillat

NYS Senator James Sanders

NYS Senator Michael Gianaris

NYS Senator Roxanne J. Persaud

NYS Senator Jesse Hamilton

NYS Senator Kevin S. Parker
Council Member Helen Rosenthal

Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez

Council Member Andrew Cohen

Council Member James Vacca

Council Member Fernando Cabrera

Council Member Ritchie J. Torres

Council Member Vanessa L. Gibson

Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.

Council Member Anabel Palma

Council Member Paul Vallone

Council Member Peter Koo

Council Member Costa Constantinides

Council Member Barry Grodenchik

Council Member I. Daneek Miller

Council Member Karen Koslowitz

Council Member Elizabeth S. Crowley

Council Member Stephen T. Levin

Council Member Antonio Reynoso

Council Member Robert E. Cornegy Jr.

Council Member Mathieu Eugene

Council Member Vincent Gentile

Council Member Jumaane D. Williams

Council Member Chaim M. Deutsh

Council Member Deborah Rose

Council Member Joseph C. Borelli