

Philip K. Howard

Philip K. Howard has lived on Gramercy Park for more than 40 years, and has been involved in local and civic affairs for most of his adult life. Since the early 1990s, Howard has been a Gramercy Park community leader and invaluable advisor on all important Gramercy Park issues. He currently serves as Of Counsel to the Trustees of Gramercy Park.

As a young lawyer, Howard chaired the zoning committee of Manhattan Community Board 6. He then became an officer and Chair of the Municipal Art Society of New York. He also chaired the committee that created the “Tribute in Light” memorial for the victims of 9/11. Howard was Vice-Chair of the law firm Covington & Burling (now senior counsel).

Howard is best known as a leader of government and legal reform in America. He is the author of the best-seller *The Death of Common Sense* (Random House, 1995), *The Collapse of the Common Good* (Ballantine Books, 2002), and *Life Without Lawyers* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2009), and worked closely with Vice President Al Gore on his reinventing government initiative. His latest book, *The Rule of Nobody* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2014), was nominated for the Hayek Book Prize and was praised by Fareed Zakaria as “an utterly compelling and persuasive book that, if followed, could change the way America works.” His 2010 [TED Talk](#) has been viewed by over 600,000 people. Howard regularly testifies before Congress on infrastructure and regulatory reform.

In 2002, Philip formed Common Good, a nonpartisan national coalition dedicated to restoring common sense to America. His 2015 report “Two Years, Not Ten Years,” analyzed the economic and environmental costs of red tape delays for infrastructure, and has been endorsed by leaders of both major political parties. He has received a number of awards for his civic and reform work. Howard writes periodically for the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, and other publications.

Howard and his wife Alexandra Cushing Howard have raised four children on Gramercy Park. He was a member of the Calvary Church choir with his children, and also took the contemporary photographs for Stephen Garmey’s book *Gramercy Park: An Illustrated History of a New York Neighborhood*. The son of a minister, Philip got his start working summers at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory for Nobel laureate Eugene Wigner. He is a graduate of Yale College and the University of Virginia Law School.