

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS,
PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES

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June 2, 2015
Start: 11:24 a.m.
Recess: 1:56 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Room
16th Floor

B E F O R E:
PETER A. KOO
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Annabel Palma
Maria Del Carmen Arroyo
Rosie Mendez
Stephen T. Levin
Inez D. Barron
Ben Kallos

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Janet Adams
Landmarks Preservation Committee

Deborah Young
President
Crown Heights North Association

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2 [sound check, pause]

3 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Ready? [gavel] Good

4 morning. This is Council Member Peter Koo. I'm the
5 Chair of the Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting
6 and Maritime Use. Today, we have Land Use No. 231,
7 Application No. 20155451 HKK, Crown Heights North III
8 Historic District in Council Member Cumbo and
9 Cornegy's district. And today, we have--oh, we have
10 the following members in our committee present:
11 Council Member Mendez, who just received the gold
12 star for being the first one here, and Council Member
13 Levin and Council Member Barron. And we have Janet
14 Adams from the Landmarks Preservation Committee. She
15 is going to testify before us.

16 JANET ADAMS: Is this on? All right.

17 Good morning council members. As you'll see, you
18 have my testimony. You have a support letter from
19 Council Member Cornegy and a map of the district, and
20 I'm here today to testify on the Commission's design
21 of Crown Heights North III Historic District in
22 Brooklyn. Our hearing for this district actually
23 took place in January, 2012, and at that time, we had
24 12 people speak in support, the Council--the elected
25 officials of the area, Council Member Al Vann, Tish

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3 James, Borough President Marty Markowitz, CB8, Crown
4 Heights North Association. Which you'll see, we have
5 some members here, and the Conservancy, and no one
6 was opposed at that time. And this March is when we
7 received the letter of support from Cornegy, which is
8 included. The majority of this district is within
9 Cornegy--Cornegy's district with a small portion in
10 Cumbo's. The vote by our commission to designate
11 took place on March 25th, and it went through the
12 City Planning review process in April. And now to
13 focus on the details of the district, Crown Heights
14 North III comprises about 640 buildings. These are
15 single and two-family row houses, flats buildings
16 apartment buildings primarily built from the 1870s to
17 the 1930s. They represent the wealth of
18 architectural styles that flourished in Brooklyn
19 during this period, which includes Neo-Grec, Queen
20 Anne, Romanesque Revival, Renaissance Revival, Beaux
21 Arts and Art Deco. This district also includes one
22 of Brooklyn's great houses of worship, the former
23 Shaari Zedek Synagogue, which now operates as the
24 First Church of God and Christ at the Southeast
25 Corner of Kingston Ave. and Park Place. The
district also contains the city's earliest and most

3 sensitive collection of Kinko Houses, which are two-
4 family duplex houses that were popular in Brooklyn
5 from 1905 to 1913. And aside from impressive
6 architecture, the area also is culturally
7 significant. Some notable residents of the district
8 are the famous author Richard Wright, and the
9 Congress Member Shirley Chisholm, who lived on Saint
10 John's place during her 1972 presidential run. And
11 although Crown Heights North III has experienced many
12 changes over history, it remains a remarkably well
13 preserved testament to the quality of Brooklyn's
14 residential architecture at the turn of the 20th
15 Century. So, according--accordingly, the Landmarks
16 Preservation Commission urges you to affirm the
17 designation. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON KOO: [off mic] Thank you,
19 Ms. Adams.

20 JANET ADAMS: Any questions?

21 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Any questions from our
22 members? Seeing no questions--

23 JANET ADAMS: Great. Thanks.

24 CHAIRPERSON KOO: We have Deborah Young
25 from the Crown Heights North Association. She's
going to testify.

3 [background comments]

4 DEBORAH YOUNG: Thank you. Good morning.

5 My name is Deb--my name is Deborah Young, and I'm

6 President of the Crown Heights North Association.

7 Thank you, Janet. I am here today to thank you for

8 the sponsorship of the designation of Phase III of

9 the Crown Heights North Historic District. We are

10 heartened by the fact that the Council committee is

11 lending its weight to this proposal. The

12 architectural dreams in our community chronicle

13 significant chapters in the history of this city, and

14 range from Bedford Corners to the Hunterfly Road

15 Houses of Weeksville. This history enriches our

16 communal foundation, is epitomized in the unique

17 artistry of the structures that have managed to

18 survive the test of time, and also encourages

19 tourism. Crown Heights North Phase 3 is worthy of

20 historic district designation. We are grateful for

21 this day as we are confident that the Crown Heights

22 North Community will be honored with completion of

23 the historic designation of Phase 3. We are

24 confident that the remaining phases of Crown Heights

25 North will also receive timely historic designation,

as it is equally deserving of having those gems saved

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2 for future generations. We'd also like to thank our
3 Council Members Cornegy and Cumbo for their untiring
4 support. We'd like to thank the Land Mark
5 Preservation Commission and the Historic District
6 Council who has been there and helped along this
7 journey. Thank you very much.

8 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Thank you. Any
9 questions for them? No.

10 FEMALE SPEAKER: [off mic] Any members
11 from the public?

12 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Any members from the
13 public want to make testimony. Seeing none, the
14 hearing is closed.

15 [background comments]

16 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Okay, we're going to
17 call a vote for this landmark application. Go ahead
18 and the chair has suggested a yes vote.

19 CLERK: Chair Koo.

20 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Yes.

21 CLERK: Council Member Mendez.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I vote aye.

23 CLERK: And Council Member Barron.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.

25 [pause]

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2 LEGAL COUNSEL: [off mic] We'll hold the
3 vote open for a 15 more minutes.

4 CHAIRPERSON KOO: We're going to hold the
5 vote open for 15 more minutes for some other members
6 to come in to vote. So the meeting is adjourned.

7 [background comments]

8 CHAIRPERSON KOO: What--what's that? We
9 will wait. Okay. that's it.

10 CLERK: Council Member Levin.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Land Use No. 231 is approved with
13 4 votes in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 0
14 abstentions.

15 LEGAL COUNSEL: [off mic] And referred to
16 the full Land Use Committee.

17 CLERK: And referred to the full L and
18 Use Committee.

19 [background comments]

20 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Okay, we--we will hold
21 the vote open for another 15 minutes, and the meeting
22 is adjourned.

23 [gavel]

24 [background comments]

25 CLERK: Council Member Kallos.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I vote aye and
3 return to the Governmental Operations Finance
4 Committee hearing on the Executive Budget. Thank
5 you.

6 CLERK: Final vote for Land Use No. 231
7 is 5 votes in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and
8 0 abstentions.

9 [background comments]

10 [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date June 8, 2015