



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

1 Centre Street, 19th floor, New York, NY 10007
(212) 669-8300 p (212) 669-4306 f
431 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027
(212) 531-1609 p (212) 531-4615 f
www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov

Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

September 20, 2018

Re: Application No. 20185492 HKM - Central Harlem – West 130th -132nd Streets Historic District

The following was sent in an e-mail to Speaker Johnson, Chair Salamanca and the members of the City Council Land Use Committee:

Good evening, Speaker Johnson, Councilmember Salamanca, and council members on the Land Use Committee. I am writing to urge you to approve the application for the Central Harlem Historic District with no modifications to the boundaries set by the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC).

The designation of this proposed district is a great step toward honoring the exceptional social, cultural, and political contributions that African-Americans made to our city and our country. The Harlem community has long had to fight for landmark and historical district status. LPC's designation of the Central Harlem 130th– 132nd Streets Historical District is the result of their fight to enshrine the places where African-American women and men joined together to challenge the status quo and altered the course of history. Now is not the time to whittle away at the edges of this important achievement.

The Subcommittee on Landmarks voted for a modified boundary—and one that defies logic. Both Community Board 10 and Councilmember Perkins have expressed their opposition to any modifications to the district's boundaries (**See letter from CM Perkins attached**). The experts at the Landmarks Preservation Commission provided a detailed explanation on why the property at 161-165 West 132nd Street is an integral part of the proposed district's narrative; it is an example of contextual development more than a century before we understood the importance of that concept. **It would be a cruel irony if we permitted the exclusion of 161-165 W. 132nd Street (The Garage) from the proposed district and it resulted in out of scale development in the future.** You can prevent that from happening with your vote tomorrow.

Sincerely,


Gale A. Brewer