

**TESTIMONY OF THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION BEFORE  
THE CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING  
AND MARITIME USES ON THE DESIGNATION OF THE EAST VILLAGE /  
LOWER EAST SIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT IN MANHATTAN.**

**January 29, 2013**

Good morning Council Members. My name is Jenny Fernández, Director of Intergovernmental and Community Relations for the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of the East Village / Lower East Side Historic District in Manhattan.

On June 26, 2012, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation of the East Village/Lower East Side Historic District. Thirty-seven people spoke in support of designation including representatives of City Councilmember Rosie Mendez, Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Community Board 3, State Senator Thomas K. Duane, State Senator Daniel L. Squadron, State Assembly Member Brian Kavanagh, and State Assembly Member Deborah J. Glick. Several residents and property owners also spoke in support of designation, as did representatives of the Bowery Alliance of Neighbors, City Lore, Cooper Square Community Development Committee and Businessmen's Association, East Village Community Coalition, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, Historic Districts Council, Lower East Side Preservation Initiative, Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America, New York Landmarks Conservancy, Society for the Architecture of the City. Sixteen people spoke in opposition to designation or in opposition to including their property within the historic district, including several property owners, as well as representatives of the Cathedral of the Holy Virgin Protection (four representatives), Catholic Worker Movement, Real Estate Board of New York, Saint Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Roman Catholic Church (two representatives), and St. Mary's American Orthodox Greek Catholic Church. Two speakers took no position on designation. In addition, the Commission has received hundreds of letters, petitions, and emails regarding this designation, both in support and in opposition to designation. On October 9, 2012, the Commission voted to designate the East Village / Lower East Side historic district.

The East Village/Lower East Side Historic District consists of approximately 325 buildings located along Second Avenue and the adjacent side streets between East 2<sup>nd</sup> and East 7<sup>th</sup> Streets. Development in this area began in earnest during the 1830s when unprecedented growth pushed the limits of the city northward and—for at least a brief period—made the blocks comprising the historic district one of New York's most prestigious residential neighborhoods. Scores of elegant single-family row houses, most designed in the Greek Revival style, were erected in the area. Second Avenue in particular became a favored location for

fashionable residential construction. By the 1850s large numbers of immigrants began to settle in the area as wealthier residents moved farther uptown. Many of the existing row houses were converted for multiple family dwellings and boarding houses, and eventually new purpose-built tenements began to replace the older building stock. These buildings, known as “pre-law” tenements because they predated the Tenement House Act of 1879, were designed in a simplified version of the Italianate style that had become the dominant mode of architecture in New York City. Later structures from the early 1870s show the growing influence of the neo-Grec style in the neighborhood.

The majority of immigrants who settled in the historic district during the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century were of German heritage. Amongst the first institutions erected to serve this community was the Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Mark, which was completed in 1848. As immigration increased during the 1840s and 1850s the eastern wards of Manhattan developed into a cohesive, large-scale ethnic community known by names such as *Kleindeutschland* or Little Germany. By the 1890s many of the area’s German residents and institutions began to move to other neighborhoods in New York City. At the same time, new immigrant groups were starting to settle in the vicinity of the historic district and the area evolved into a polyglot enclave representing a complex array of national, regional, ethnic, linguistic, and religious identities. As the term *Kleindeutschland* ceased to accurately describe the neighborhood people began to refer to it as the Lower East Side, which was in regular use by the mid 1890s.

The cosmopolitan composition of the neighborhood can be seen in the range of institutions established within the historic district during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Yiddish-speaking Jews from Eastern Europe were the largest identifiable group of recent arrivals; perhaps the most conspicuous monument to their community within the historic district is the stately synagogue built for the Congregation Adas Yisroel Anshe Mezeritz on East 6<sup>th</sup> Street in 1910. A vibrant and well-established Polish Roman Catholic community centered on Saint Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Roman Catholic Church, which built a new sanctuary at 107 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street in 1899-1901. Protestant Hungarians established their own house of worship down the block at 121 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, where the First Hungarian Reformed Church occupied a converted row house just after the turn of the century. Institutions founded by native-born New Yorkers to serve the immigrant community included the New York City Mission and Tract Society’s Olivet Memorial Church on East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, the Middle Collegiate Church on Second Avenue, and the Society of the Music School Settlement on East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

In the early 1910s Second Avenue became the most important entertainment district for the city's Jewish immigrant community—leading many to call the area the Yiddish Rialto. Vestiges of that era can be seen in the facades of the Public Theatre, one of the larger venues built for Yiddish stage productions, and the Lowe's Commodore, the grandest movie palace ever built on the Lower East Side.

The intense building activity of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was brought to a halt in the early 1930s by the Great Depression, and most of the structures within the historic district have changed little from that period. The demographics of the neighborhood, however, have undergone several dramatic transformations in subsequent decades. Latin American immigrants, especially those from Puerto Rico, established a large community in the East Village during the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. During the same period the area was discovered by artists and bohemians moving eastward from Greenwich Village, leading realtors to call the neighborhood the Village East and eventually the East Village. The neighborhood has a rich history of social activism tied to its historic building stock. The streets of the historic district have survived urban renewal plans in the 1950s and 1960s, as well as the economic crisis of the 1970s, to become the center of the 1980s downtown art and music scene.

The East Village/Lower East Side remains one of New York City's, and the country's, most storied neighborhoods. It is synonymous with the American immigrant experience and has served as a nationally-recognized cultural center for more than a century and a half. The blocks within the East Village/Lower East Side Historic District have traditionally contained the area's most substantial structures and its finest architecture, as well as many of its most important institutions. It contains an incredibly dense layering of historic and cultural significance—from its early history as a fashionable residential neighborhood, to its subsequent identities as the tenement districts of *Kleindeutschland* and Lower East Side, through its heyday as the entertainment center of the Yiddish Rialto, and during its more recent evolution into the East Village of Bohemians and punks, Off-Broadway theaters and community activist groups—and the buildings within the historic district tell the complete story of this vibrant neighborhood.

The Commission urges you to affirm this designation.



January 28, 2013

Hon. Brad Lander  
Chair, Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses  
NYC City Council  
456 5th Avenue, 3rd Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11215

Dear Chair Lander:

The Real Estate Board of New York, Inc. is opposed the designation of the East Village/Lower East Side Historic District as presently constituted. As your committee reviews this designation, we ask you to consider the issues in this letter.

As our testimony to the Landmarks Preservation Commission (attached) indicated, REBNY questions the inclusion of Second Avenue in the district. Some of the Second Avenue properties are highly altered and lacking in apparent architectural significance. For example, 43 Second Avenue is described in the designation report as "Utilitarian with Renaissance Revival Elements" and has experienced the following alterations: "Ground floor and second story largely reconfigured; lower stories parged; cloth canopy; light fixtures beside ground floor window; light fixtures with conduit below second story window," and on the east façade, the door, windows and storefront are not original. In the case of 57 Second Avenue, the following alterations are noted: "Stoop removed and entrance reconfigured (1915); ground floor storefront infill with fixed cloth awning and roll-down security gates; mid-building cornices removed above ground floor and eight stories; upper cornice removed." On the east façade, the door, windows and storefront are not original and the cornice has been removed. These buildings, among others, appear to no longer represent their original architecture nor does the designation report indicate any historic happenings or notable persons associated with the properties. What then is the basis for designation?

We are also concerned about small property owners who may only own one or two buildings in the area. Modernizing and upgrading the interiors of these very old tenements, which were deemed to be substandard housing decades ago, is expensive and adding additional expense and process for exterior alterations can be problematic for owners with limited resources. This issue was raised during the vote of the LPC, when Commissioner Perlmutter, who voted against the district, noted that she found the area to be unworthy of historic district status. In her view, tenement buildings, which she called a "famously poor housing type," were common throughout the City and sufficiently preserved in other historic districts. She stated that while "there are definitely things within the contours of this historic district that are worth preserving and protecting," the goals of the district were inadequately focused.

She also argued that the Essex Street area is better identified with the Lower East Side immigrant experience.

An additional concern is the number of houses of worship and other buildings owned by small non-profit entities that are contained in this district. In many cases, landmark designation will impair the asset value of these properties by reducing the possibility of utilizing development rights that are now available under the applicable zoning. Restoration and renovation work for these expensive to operate buildings already takes away funds from their mission. Designation will only make this work more costly. While some grant funding is available, houses of worship and not-for-profits entities have no guarantee that they will be awarded any funding nor are the grants ever sufficient to complete the work and the current hardship provisions in the landmarks law are inadequate to address this dilemma. Isn't it time for the City to provide more realistic guidance and financing for the maintenance of landmarked properties such as these?

We trust that the Subcommittee will fully explore these issues concerning the East Village/Lower East Side Historic District and we thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael Slattery  
Senior Vice President

**TESTIMONY OF THE REAL ESTATE BOARD OF NEW YORK, INC. BEFORE THE NYC LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION IN REGARD TO THE PROPOSED EAST VILLAGE/LOWER EAST SIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT.**

June 26, 2012

The Real Estate Board of New York, Inc. (REBNY) is a broadly based trade association of over 12,000 owners, developers, brokers, managers and other real estate professionals active throughout New York City. We would like to comment on the proposed East Village/Lower East Side Historic District.

According to the brief description provided by LPC at the time of calendaring, the proposed district includes sections of 19<sup>th</sup> century residential buildings along with rowhouses that contribute to an understanding of the history of this area of Manhattan. While LPC's description discussed the cultural and historical associations in the neighborhood with respect to the history of immigration in the neighborhood and various social and artistic movements, there was little discussion of the specific buildings included in the district

As we recently testified to the City Council, we believe that the Landmarks Preservation Commission should present the draft designation report for a historic district to the public well before the public hearing. This report should outline not only the architectural style and alterations for each and every building in the district but also the connection, if any, of each building to the historical or cultural events which are an integral aspect of this designation.

From our visual review of the proposed district, REBNY questions the inclusion of Second Avenue in the district. Some of the Second Avenue properties are in poor condition, highly altered and lacking in apparent architectural significance. We suspect that the most of the retail storefronts have undergone significant alteration and lack any historic or architectural merit. The buildings on the side streets do appear to have undergone limited alteration and have some architectural interest. How these buildings and their architecture specifically represent the immigrant experience or cultural events should be specified in a draft designation report.

The Landmarks Law requires that in a historic district the architectural, historical and cultural components are themselves special and that collectively they represent a distinct section of the city. How this proposed district meets that standard and why it should be preserved in perpetuity should be spelled out in a draft designation report that is available to the public prior to the public hearing. This is important as a matter of public policy and critical for the many individual property owners who don't have the means to undertake extensive architectural and historic studies to assess how their building does or does not fit in. When

owners only receive the draft report shortly before the designation vote, there is a very limited opportunity to comment on and correct what is presented in the report.

REBNY has several other comments specific to this proposed district. We are concerned about small property owners who may only own one or two buildings in the area. Modernizing and upgrading the interiors of these very old tenements, which were deemed to be substandard housing decades ago, is expensive and adding additional expense and process for exterior alterations can be problematic for owners with limited resources.

We are also concerned about the number of houses of worship and other buildings owned by non-profit entities that are contained in this district. In many cases, landmark designation will impair the asset value of these properties by reducing the possibility of utilizing development rights that are now available under the applicable zoning. Restoration and renovation work for these expensive to operate buildings already takes away funds from their mission. Designation will only make this work more costly. While some grant funding is available, houses of worship and not-for-profits entities have no guarantee that they will be awarded any funding nor are the grants ever sufficient to complete the work. The current hardship provisions in the landmarks law are inadequate to address this dilemma.

At the Community Board 3 meeting last summer, many community members called for a "third way", a preservation effort that would be less restrictive than landmark designation and that would also come with some relief and funding for houses of worship and other non-profits. We urge the City to give serious consideration to such a "next-generation" landmarks process that would lead to more preservation and a better and more equitable partnership with the property owners that are asked to be the stewards of our city's historic built environment. Thank you.



THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

232 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street New York NY 10003  
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January 29, 2013

Statement of the Historic Districts Council  
Before the Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses  
Regarding the Designation of the East Village/Lower East Side Historic District

The Historic Districts Council is the citywide advocate for New York's historic neighborhoods. HDC has long been an advocate for preserving the East Village and Lower East Side, and we are, of course, in strong support of the proposed historic district.

Kleindeutschland, the Yiddish Rialto, Loisaída – whatever you call it, the neighborhood is the epitome of a classic Manhattan neighborhood. The buildings were (and still are) homes to new immigrants and long-time residents; hubs of social justice, equality and identity movements; and centers of culture and entertainment. Given the cycle of constant change which this area has undergone for almost two centuries, it is remarkable that anything recognizable from history still exists, and yet it does. Preservationists talk a lot about the “layering of history”, of how buildings from different eras co-exist next to each other, creating a complex cityscape which is heterogeneous but intimately connected. Although there is a vast diversity of architectural styles in the East Village, there is a unity among the structures – seen in their complementary scale, materials and articulated details – which much like the diversity of its residents, lends a vibrancy and a character that is unique to the neighborhood. Although this area has qualities in common with other of New York's historic districts, it is the concentrated layers of history, both architectural and cultural, which make this neighborhood so distinctive and so worthy of being protected. Here, more than most other historic districts, the charge of landmark oversight will be to guide the ceaseless change of the neighborhood in ways that do not erase or falsify its history.

It is with great joy that HDC testifies in favor of this historic district. This neighborhood is one of our chosen “Six to Celebrate” for 2013, and we look forward to developing programming and working even more closely with the community in the coming year to ensure that this district has as exciting and vibrant a future as it does a past.





THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

BRAD HOYLMAN  
SENATOR, 27TH DISTRICT

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**Testimony of New York State Senator Brad Hoylman  
to the New York City Council Subcommittee  
on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses  
on the Proposed East Village/Lower East Side Historic District**

January 29, 2013

My name is Brad Hoylman and I represent New York State's 27th Senate District, in which almost all of the proposed East Village/Lower East Side Historic District is located. Thank you Chair Lander and members of the New York City Council Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses for this opportunity to present testimony.

I am a strong supporter of this Historic District designation. As you know, the defined area contains approximately 330 properties, many of which are tenements, row houses, or institutional buildings from the 19th century and reflect the immigrant experience during this unique era in New York history. Included within its boundaries are such architectural treasures as 62 East 4th Street, with its Italianate shapes and lines and its distinctive, enclosed cylindrical fire escape; the neo-classical Congregation Mezritch Synagogue, the Lower East Side and East Village's last operating "tenement synagogue," with its noble arches and stately pilasters; and the group of five, three-story brick rowhouses at 30-38 East 3rd Street, which comprise a quintessential mid-19<sup>th</sup> century streetscape. And these are just a small sampling of the historically and culturally significant buildings within the proposed district.

I wish to express my appreciation to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) for initiating this proposed Historic District and for approving it last year. I also commend New York City Councilmember Rosie Mendez for her tremendous advocacy, with other area elected officials, Manhattan Community Board Three, the Lower East Side Preservation Initiative, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation and East Village Community Coalition, for the creation of this district and the incorporation of additional buildings and areas of architectural, cultural and historic significance that weren't in LPC's original proposal.

As LPC noted in the summary of its designation report for this proposed district, “[The East Village/Lower East Side] is synonymous with the American immigrant experience and has served as a nationally-recognized cultural center for more than a century and a half. The blocks within the East Village/Lower East Side Historic District have traditionally contained the area’s most substantial structures and its finest architecture, as well as many of its most important institutions.” Given the overwhelming recognition of this area’s architectural unity and historical significance, I urge this committee to recommend this richly deserved designation.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and for your dedication to preserving New York City’s heritage.

**THE NEW YORK  
LANDMARKS  
CONSERVANCY**

January 29, 2013

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES REGARDING PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE EAST VILLAGE/LOWER EAST SIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Good day Chair Lander and Councilmembers. I am Andrea Goldwyn, speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

The Conservancy strongly supports landmark designation of the East Village/Lower East Side Historic District. These blocks are a rich collection of row houses and tenements from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries which maintain much of their historic fabric. Italianate and Neo-Grec brownstones and apartment buildings in the Romanesque Revival, Renaissance Revival and Queen Anne styles line the streets next to handsome religious properties and cultural venues. While there have been some alterations to these structures, they have, in large part, the same scale, height, and volume as when built.

The unique character of these buildings animates a neighborhood that retains long-time residents and has been a powerful lure to generations of newcomers. In addition to architectural merit, the East Village derives a special sense of place from the vast sweep of history that has taken place on its streets. From early days as a base for merchants, to decades of welcoming immigrant communities, to serving as the home for the social movements and artistic communities so prominent in more recent years, the East Village truly tells the story of New York.

We would like to remind building owners of the advantages of landmarking. The City's own Independent Budget Office has issued a study stating that historic district designation stabilizes and improves property values. Just as designation has benefited other parts of Lower Manhattan, landmarking the East Village Districts will enhance these neighborhoods, ensuring that any alterations are guided by the Landmarks Law.

The East Village/Lower East Side District includes several historic religious properties, some of which have spoken against designation. In 2011, Conservancy staff attended a meeting, convened by Council member Rosie Mendez, to discuss their particular concerns. Landmarking will not freeze these buildings in time, restrict the rights of their congregations, or force them to undertake costly, time-consuming repairs. While leaky roofs and boilers always need to be repaired, the LPC regulation process, like any other City agency, helps to ensure that work is performed correctly. Changes to interiors are not regulated, and the guidance that the Commission provides can help safeguard that any funds spent will be a good investment in the long-term stewardship of the building.

Throughout the 27 years that the Conservancy's Sacred Sites Program has been offering assistance to historic religious properties, we have worked with congregations to consider phased fundraising and restoration projects, capacity building, shared space usage, redevelopment plans, air rights sales, or even the sale of the building to a new congregation. In working with hundreds of such properties across the City and State, we have seen these approaches work.

We have also provided direct assistance: Sacred Sites has granted over \$3 million to 200 New York City landmark religious properties, and our Historic Properties Fund has made over \$5.1 million in low-interest loans for restoration work on these buildings. Most recently we awarded a \$25,000 challenge grant to Community Synagogue for façade restoration and roof replacement, and a \$12,000 grant to the Hopper House on Second Avenue for professional services.

Beyond our funds, landmark designation can trigger grants from the City and State. Flushing Meeting in Queens has completed work financed with \$500,000 in City capital funding and a \$100,000 State grant, while Tifereth Israel in Corona has nearly completed a \$1.7 million restoration project using \$1.1 million in City capital funds, \$200,000 from the State, and \$400,000 in private funding, which we helped them raise. In these and many more instances, landmark designation has supported buildings, congregations, and communities.

There is no doubt that the East Village will continue to grow and evolve as it has for over 200 years; with landmark designation, new generations of residents, business owners, artists, and immigrants will be able to rediscover and use this community's rich architectural heritage.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Conservancy's views.

**Testimony before the Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses**

**Concerning the designation of the East Village/Lower East Side Historic District**

**LU-0752-2013**

**Borough Of Manhattan, Community Board 3, Council District 2**

**Tuesday, January 29, 2013**

**114 East 7th Street (Block-434, Lot-21)**

**116 East 7th Street (Block-434, Lot-21)**

Good morning Chairman Lander and members of the City Council Subcommittee on Landmarks, Siting and Maritime Uses. I am Krystyna Piorkowska and I am present today to testify in opposition to the application before you that would establish a historic district in a large area of the Lower East Side. I therefore join the one person on the LPC to have voted against the designation, an architect, who as such is a person who has the best knowledge and understanding of these buildings.

In response to letters sent by the LPC and dated June 5, 2012 regarding the above properties, I am speaking in support of the Parish of St. Stanislaus, which opposes the landmarking of this area. I also speak as a property owner, whose business operations shall be stymied by the regulations of landmarking. I also wish to note for the record that my formal FOIL requests submitted in accordance with the law to the appropriate representatives of the LPC were met with silence and never responded to.

As a long term resident of the community (1975) and former Community Board member, I oppose the landmarking as it denies and camouflages the existence of the Polish community in this neighborhood. As the parish has noted, there was a large Polish presence in this community well before the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. When the parish relocated to 7<sup>th</sup> Street, it clearly did so because a significant number of its parishioners, many of whom were notable individuals not only in the Polish community but in the history of the United States. Certainly, Erasmus Jerzmanowski and Helena Modrzejewska are historical figures, yet no mention is made of them. During this same period a multitude of Polish exile and émigré organizations were headquartered near the parish and attended services at the Church of St. Stanislaus. Their political and organizational activities were integrally important in the post-WWI creation of an independent Polish state. Concurrently,

members of the parish who were members of various riflemen's companies joined General Haller's Polish Army which fought in France in WWI. Not one word about this appears in the description of the parish or of my properties. I can only surmise that the LPC is exhibiting cultural discrimination, as the Polish community of St. Stanislaus did not exhibit the anarchist-communist historical predilections so beloved by the GVSHP (vide the 1<sup>st</sup> Street beer hall plaque).

It is not only necessary but imperative that the continuously repeated, yet erroneous information concerning the Polish community of the Lower East Side be amended. Further, it is necessary that we note that the draft building descriptions of the above referenced properties, enclosed with your letter are also factually incorrect. It is disappointing that the LPC and its researchers have not bothered to verify their data, with the primary stakeholder in this matter, and have simply operated in a method which serves to rewrite historical facts in a revisionist manner.

## HISTORICAL INACCURACIES

The Polish Community has been part of the Lower Eastside since the mid 1800's (not late 19th century) and part of East 7<sup>th</sup> Street since 1899 when the community purchased the property on 7<sup>th</sup> Street and proceeded to build Saint Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Church. Omitting this information from the LPC description manifests a major disregard and contempt for the Polish community, which manifests itself further in the description of the property.

The Polish segment of the neighborhood continued expanding throughout the early 20<sup>th</sup> century until the Great Depression. In fact, had the LPC researchers conducted their work properly they would have noted that 7<sup>th</sup> Street was a continuous hub of activity engaging the Polish community. Meetings of church related and other organizations continuously took place, as did various types of church services – Masses, Weddings, Baptisms and funerals.

Yet there is not a word of this in the description of my property – yet having owned the building for 31 years, I can advise the LPC that my buildings had an 85% Polish or Ruthenian tenancy when I purchased them. So it surprises me that there is not one word about this.

## NOTABLE HISTORY –

Had the historians of the LPC bothered to conduct their research as a researcher should – they would have been in contact with Professor Gurnack, who has conducted research on my properties

where the opera singers of Metropolitan Opera dropped in for dinner. But I suspect that Jean de Reszke means nothing to the GVHSP and the LPC.

The later historical figures that resided in the building in the post WWII period as well as in the Solidarity period are also not mentioned in the building descriptions – again – no reason logical reason is given. This of course relates to the fact that Helena Modrzejewska and Erasmus Jerzmanowski are not mentioned.

## FACTUAL DESCRIPTIVE INACCURACIES

In reading the description one would wonder if the author had actually viewed the properties which were described.

### **114 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street**

114 East 7th Street pursuant to records in the Buildings Department was built in 1903, and given the fact that it was built as a double dumbbell structure, and the change from the Old Law Tenements to New Law Tenements occurred in 1901, it is difficult to understand where a construction date of 1899 can be determined.

Stoop: described as historic, despite the fact that it has been resurfaced by the current owner, prior to the ground floor façade being resurfaced. Further, there never was a gate under the stoop and it is a recent installation, so describing it as a replacement is a complete error.

Security grills: Unclear as to what security grills are being referred to.

Fence Materials: in the original application there is a contradiction in that in one spot they are described as historic, and in another as not historic. **The final description, despite the fact that I myself installed a portion of the fence - states that the fence is historic.**

East Façade: cannot be historic and plain brick as it has been Thorosealed on a number of occasions.

**116 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street - Some of these errors have been corrected – while others remain in the final description**

This building could not have been erected in 1862 as described by LPC – and I suggest that the LPC utilize the Map Room of the NYPL to verify this information.

Stories: The building is described by the Buildings Dept as 5 stories plus basement, and it seems improbable that a sixth story could have been erected. (Please note that if there are brick sills as per the LPC description on the first floor the building has six stories plus basement.)

Site Features: There is no cellar access hatch, there is only a cellar vent.

East Façade: Given that the building was built as a party wall construction, with the east façade being a party wall, it is impossible for the east façade to be visible in any part.

West Façade: Given that 114 East 7<sup>th</sup> is almost 1.5 stories taller than 116, it is impossible for the west façade to be visible in any part.

## LACK OF FACTUAL STUDY BY THE LPC

Further, as I personally requested all the building files on 7<sup>th</sup> Street and found that there were none in the LPC – it is clear that this attempt to landmark our properties is simply a political move and a revisionist one at that. If this was a true attempt to present historical and factual reality I might respect it, but as it is a purely political one, I must oppose it.

## BUSINESS HARM TO PROPERTY OWNERS

Additionally, the various regulations imposed upon Domek Associates concerning among other items the installation of air conditioners will inimically disrupt the conduct of our business operations, while the additional costs involved in façade work will harm our tenants. The requirement that when I am pointing the building I will need to halt work in order to have an inspector come in and check on a test patch of color for the walls, windows and fire escapes – despite have filed permits and selected materials in compliance with LPC requirements.

Sincerely,

Krystyna Piórkowska



**CITY COUNCIL LANDMARKS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING - 1/29/13**

**TESTIMONY: EAST VILLAGE/LOWER EAST SIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

When the East Village and Lower East Side were contextually rezoned, one of the unfortunate results of this rezoning plan was that smaller buildings, such as row houses, became soft sites and are vulnerable to demolition or inappropriate alteration. As a result, this community has already lost a number of historically significant buildings: the ca. 1839 Greek Revival row houses at 326 and 328 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, the ca. 1825 Federal-style house at 35 Cooper Square and the 1835 rowhouse at 316 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. And finally, on East 6<sup>th</sup> Street, where I live, the 1852 townhouse at 331 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street was recently demolished. Also, a number of tenements on my street have had their lintels and cornices removed.

The East Village and the Lower East Side are an area of great local, city-wide and national importance for its central role in our culture's immigration, political, music, art, and theater history. Its historic streets include a wonderfully rich variety of 19th and early 20th century architecture. By landmarking this district the city is ensuring that we and future generations can appreciate the physical evidence of its fascinating and influential history and architecture.

The East Village and Lower East Side are rapidly losing their rich culture and history due to demolition, inappropriate development and the defacing of buildings. It is for these reasons that I, as a resident in the East Village/Lower East Side Historic District and have lived here for many years, hope that the City Council Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses will approve this designation.

Jean Standish  
308 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10003

1/29/13

**CITY COUNCIL LANDMARKS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING - 1/29/13**

**TESTIMONY: EAST VILLAGE/LOWER EAST SIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses

The East 7th Street Block Association (2nd-3rd Aves.) strongly supports the creation of the East Village/Lower East Side Historic District. Such a designation will help to preserve the residential and artistic character of our neighborhood.

Sincerely,  
Carol Joyce, President, East 7th Street Block Association  
39 East 7th Street  
New York, NY 10003



**GREENWICH VILLAGE SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED EAST VILLAGE/  
LOWER EAST SIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

**January 29, 2013**

Greenwich  
Village  
Society for  
Historic  
Preservation

252 East 11th Street  
New York, New York 10005

(212) 475-9585  
fax: (212) 475-9582  
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Anthony C. Wood

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to testify. On behalf of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, I would like to express our unequivocal support for upholding the designation of the East Village/Lower East Side Historic District. We would also like to thank Councilmember Rosie Mendez for her continued support in preserving the great character of this vibrant neighborhood.

The East Village is one of the most historically significant areas of New York City. Extant structures date to the late 1700s, and the area is rich in evidence of New York's mercantile history in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, its dramatic transformation by waves of immigration starting in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, and its rebirth and as a mecca for artists, painters, writers, and musicians in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The East Village/Lower East Side Historic District captures an incredibly important part of this history. Throughout the district are numerous early 19<sup>th</sup> century Federal and Greek Revival houses built for the merchants and businessmen who first settled this neighborhood two hundred years ago. Some of these houses have meticulously preserved or restored facades, while others were transformed to house immigrant families, stores, union headquarters, theaters, and houses of worship. The district also contains a remarkable variety of mid-19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century tenements, providing testament to, and a record of, the lives of hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers for whom this city was their first stop in a new world.

Perhaps most dramatically, however, the district also contains an extraordinary array of buildings housing critical institutions that speak to the East Village's dynamic and unique social and cultural heritage. Congregation Mezritch Synagogue, the East Village's last operating tenement synagogue; the Anthology Film Archives, located in the former Third District Magistrate's Court; East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street's Russian Orthodox Cathedral, the former Olivet Memorial Church; the former Industrial National Bank on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue; St. Stanislaus Church on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street; 101 Avenue A, the home of the Pyramid Club and the former home of Leppig's Hall; Middle Collegiate Church; the former Fillmore East and Commodore Theater, now Emigrant Savings Bank; the Hebrew Actor's Union; the Catholic Worker; and McSorley's Saloon are all found within the district. Each speaks to the vibrant and diverse kaleidoscope of cultures which have defined the East Village and have called it home.

While these critically important historic sites remain, too much of the East Village's historic fabric has been eroded or destroyed in recent years. In the year prior to the Landmarks hearing of this district, we have seen two early 19<sup>th</sup> century houses altered or demolished, and several other buildings compromised. Outside the district, in just

the past year we have seen some of the oldest structures in the East Village demolished or altered beyond recognition.

We hope that the City Council will uphold the designation of the East Village/Lower East Side Historic District in order to preserve a vital part of New York history well into the future.

Thank you.

# L. E. S. P. I.

LESPI-NYC.ORG

**TESTIMONY: NY City Council Landmarks Subcommittee January 29, 2013**

**RE: EAST VILLAGE / LOWER EAST SIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

My name is Richard Moses, President of the Lower East Side Preservation Initiative, also known as LESPI. LESPI is a not-for-profit, grass roots, all volunteer organization dedicated to the preservation of the historic streetscapes of the East Village / Lower East Side.

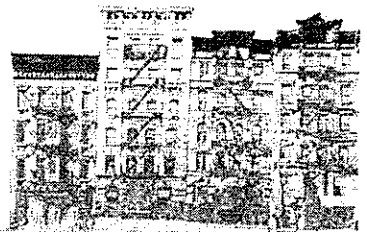
We respectfully urge the Landmarks Subcommittee to vote to ratify landmark designation for the East Village / Lower East Side Historic District. The East Village has great local, city-wide and national importance for its central role in our culture's immigration, political, music, art, and theater history. This history is reflected in the area's wonderful variety of beautifully ornate 19th and early 20th century architecture. The scale, materials and ornament of these historic buildings provide us today with a profoundly rich urban environment.

Development pressures in the East Village are intense and getting stronger all the time. Although the 2008 rezoning of the area established certain height limitations, the brute force of gentrification has resulted in ornate historic buildings and facades being demolished and replaced with generic glass and stucco boxes. Without landmark designation the historic East Village will be lost building by building and street by street.

There have been concerns raised about the religious properties in the district. When my great-grandmother first arrived in the Lower East Side from Russia 120 years ago, having been sent alone by her family as a teenager to escape the programs, she was disappointed that the streets were not literally paved in gold. But the countless religious buildings in the neighborhood did provide this aura. Although many of our community's religious buildings have been lost over the years, those remaining continue as beacons, providing residents a sense of spiritual peace and reassurance as society becomes increasingly commercialized. Losing these magnificent structures would be a tragic loss for us all.

Based on our extensive outreach, we believe that the vast majority of the neighborhood's residents want landmarking. We have gathered over 1,000 signatures in support of historic district designation in just a few petitioning sessions. Community Board 3 has voted in support of the district.

The East Village / Lower East Side Historic District will provide solid and necessary protection for its historic buildings and streetscapes. Historic district designation is the only way to effectively ensure that what we cherish about our neighborhoods will survive in the years to come. Please vote to ratify landmark designation for the East Village / Lower East Side Historic District with its current boundaries intact. Thank you.



**Lower East Side Preservation Initiative**

Neighborhood Preservation Center, 232 E. 11th Street, New York, NY 10003 info@LESPI-NYC.ORG

**CITY COUNCIL LANDMARKS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING - 1/29/13**

**TESTIMONY: EAST VILLAGE/LOWER EAST SIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

My name is Kathryn Feldman, and I am testifying to urge the City Council Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses to approve the decision of the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the East Village/Lower East Side Historic District.

I own an historic row house, 230 East Fifth Street, built in 1843, where I have lived with my family for 40 years. My twin sons were raised there, and now my grandchildren are being raised there too. In these same 40 years, I and my late husband, Floyd Feldman, founder of GOLES, have been active in preserving our neighborhood's important and unique place in New York City's history. No other place has seen so many phases of the development of Manhattan as we have. To lose such a heritage is to lose the very sense of who we are and where we came from.

I have been a professor of literature for many years, and, in all of them, my mission has been to pass on to my students the knowledge of what it has meant, and still means, to be inheritors of the work of others who have labored so hard and so long to express what it means to be human. But such knowledge is not only captured in books but also in stones, in the buildings around us which have seen the lives of all comers to the East Village. Who would want to lose such a treasure, especially when the LPC has now designated the district? Surely not those on the City Council Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses who serve to protect our interests.

Thank you for your attention.

Kathryn Feldman  
230 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10003

# FEDERATION OF MODERN PAINTERS AND SCULPTORS

www.fedart.org ♦ FOUNDED 1940 ♦ 113 GREENE STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10012 ♦ 212 966-4864

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The City Council Sub-Committee on Land Marking  
Public Hearing

January 29, 2013

RE: EAST VILLAGE/LES HISTORIC DISTRICT

Dear Council Members and concerned citizens,

I have lived in my current apartment just off the corner of St. Mark's Place and Second Avenue, within the area under discussion, for 37 years.

During that time I have seen many historic buildings in my neighborhood demolished.

It is crucial to keep the historic buildings that remain. They are the heart and soul of the city, just as the modern sleek high rises are symbols of wealth and progress. The historic districts will always be places where tourists love to visit because they are unique and a living history. The architecture speaks of a time when things were made by hand; they have a human touch and human scale. While it is important to our financial interests to demolish and build anew, so it is equally important to protect our cultural heritage.

But you already know all this.

On a more personal note, I am a cityscape painter. These East Village streets and buildings are what I love to paint. I love that I can see the sky above the decorative cornices and the water towers, the fire escapes that are so varied that they can be dated to within a decade according to their particular design. I love that I can see sunlight flooding the sidewalks, the sidewalk cafes and the stoops with their cast iron railings. I love the Orpheum Theater marquee with its comedy and tragedy masks in *bas-relief*. And I know that I am not alone, *these neighborhoods are what speak to peoples' hearts.*



I urge you to vote to landmark this district and the proposed additions.

Thank you very much.

Patricia Melvin, artist

★ EVERY YEAR ON THE ANNIVERSARY of the Triangle Shirt Waist FACTORY FIRE SOME ONE SCRIBBLES in CHALK the name of one of the VICTIMS, TESSIE ROSENSTOCK, on the sidewalk in front of my building where she lived. The realization that she lived in one of the apartments, perhaps my own, connects me



184 BOWERY # 4 NYC, NY 10012

WWW.BOWERYALLIANCE.ORG

David Mulkins, Chair

[Ban62007@gmail.com](mailto:Ban62007@gmail.com)

631-901-5435

January 22, 2013

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*Poet & Proprietor,  
Bowery Poetry Club*

Keith McNally,  
*Restaurateur,  
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Joyce Mendelsohn,  
*Historian*

Victor Papa,  
*President, Two Bridges  
Neighborhood Council*

Luc Sante,  
*Historian*

**Brad Lander, Chair**  
**Landuse Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting, Maritime Uses**  
**250 Broadway, Suite 1776**  
**New York, NY 10007**  
**Re: Proposed East Village/LES Historic District**

**Dear Chair Lander,**

We strongly support and urge you to quickly vote to designate the entire proposed East Village/Lower East Side Historic District. While wealthier districts and more grandiose buildings have received special protections, few areas of the city have had as great an impact on American history and culture. Immigrant history, labor history, the history of tenements, and the history of iconoclastic writers, artists, and musicians are writ large in this neighborhood. Considering the ferocious pace of real estate speculation, the city should move quickly to preserve its unique context and character, which are crucial components to the area's economic vitality and allure.

While we support and applaud the creation of this much needed historic district, we also urge that future extensions include the New York Marble Cemetery and the Bowery. Recently named to the New York State Register of Historic Places, the Bowery is the city's oldest thoroughfare and desperately needs to be preserved and protected.

On behalf of the Bowery Alliance of Neighbors, we urge you to move quickly to designate the East Village/Lower East Side Historic District.

Sincerely,

David Mulkins, Chair [mulbd@yahoo.com](mailto:mulbd@yahoo.com)  
Bowery Alliance of Neighbors  
184 Bowery, #4  
New York, NY 10012

\*Originally a Native American foot path, the Bowery is the convergence point for multiple historic neighborhoods (Chinatown, Little Italy, NoHo, East Village, Lower East Side). Site of America's first streetcars, it was the city's first entertainment district and played a seminal role in fostering tap dance, minstrelsy, vaudeville, the vaudeville hook, Yiddish theater, American song (Stephen Foster & Irving Berlin), Abstract Expressionism, Beat literature, and punk rock.



Testimony : NYC Council Landmarks  
sub committee 1/29/2013

RE: East Village / Lower East Side  
Historic District

MARIE BEIRNE  
3 PETER COOPER RD  
NY NY 10010

Honorable Council Members:

My name is MARIE BEIRNE, a native  
of Manhattan, as was my Mother, whose  
ancestors immigrated from Ireland,  
as did my Father.

NYC ethnic enclaves are a major  
destination for first + second  
generation Americans nationwide.  
Tourism is a multi-Billion dollar  
industry in NYC, with tens of

millions coming to our city annually to absorb our cultural, social + architectural history, as well as some making the pilgrimage to visit their roots, where their ancestors landed in NYC, some of who eventually found their way to the four corners of the United States. <sup>VISITORS</sup> ~~They~~ search the internet for their ancestors biography before they come so they can visit the old neighborhood... whether it be Fordham, Flatbush, Flushing, St. George, or the Lower East Side..

<sup>THEY</sup> soak up the environment where

their grandparents, or other relatives first embraced the New World, with their ipads or androids recording memories of this visit ... they and their children's children will return again & again to experience the joy of having walked in the steps of their ancestors.

For our city's fiscal future & our nation's heritage, let us be the stewards of these beloved historic places.

I respectfully urge the

Landmarks Subcommittee to  
vote to ratify landmark designation  
for the East Village/Lower  
East Side Historic District.

Sincerely,  
Marie Beirne

CAROLYN RATCLIFFE  
608 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street #15  
New York, NY 10009-5220

Tel. #(212) 674-4057

Email: nymagnolia@gmail.com

January 28, 2013

Honorable Brad S. Lander, Chair  
Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses Subcommittee  
NYC Council  
250 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Councilman Lander,

I am writing to ask that the Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses Subcommittee vote in support of the proposed East Village Historic District approved by the Landmarks Commission. I have been a preservation advocate in my neighborhood for many years. I think it is important to retain recognizable historic structures and streetscapes for the future so that people can better understand the past from which we have evolved. The Lower East Side/East Village has been one of the most vitally important cultural incubators for our country, housing millions of immigrants who came to this country to seek a better life, fleeing pogroms, droughts, political upheavals, wars and starvation.

The proposed Historic District gives a glimpse of the past as the area includes architectural styles ranging from Federal row houses, ornately decorated tenements, and art deco buildings to name a few. Many well-known writers, musicians and political activists have lived in these buildings and have enriched the culture not only of this neighborhood but our city and country. It is worth preserving. Protecting these buildings by recognizing the need for Historic District designation is vital. With the rampant development that is ongoing in the city, if left unprotected, these significant vestiges of our past will vanish in short order.

I ask that you vote in support of the East Village Historic District.

Thank you for your support.

Regards-



Carolyn Ratcliffe



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 3  
59 East 4th Street - New York, NY 10003  
Phone: (212) 533-5300 - Fax: (212) 533-3659  
www.cb3manhattan.org - info@cb3manhattan.org

Dominic Pisciotta, Board Chair

Susan Stetzer, District Manager

August 5, 2011

Hon. Robert B. Tierney, Chair  
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC)  
Municipal Building  
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor North  
New York, NY 10007

Re: Proposed Designation of the East Village/Lower East Side as a Historic District

Dear Chair Tierney:

At its July 2011 monthly meeting, Community Board #3 passed the following resolution:

Whereas, there has been a preponderance of public support for the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission's proposal for the designation of two Historic districts within Community Board #3 (CB#3); and

Whereas, it is thought that the proposed Historic District will preserve an important piece of not only New York City's immigrant history, but the nation's history as well, and that it will further protect existing streetscapes from rampant development, the Landmarks Subcommittee voted unanimously to support the LPC Proposal for the East 10<sup>th</sup> Street Historic District and the majority (2 out of 3) voted for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to St. Marks proposed district. Although there was vocalized opposition for the Historic Districts, mainly from religious organizations against the proposed Historic Districts and one property manager who are concerned about increased costs for repairs under LPC, the broader consensus of the opinions expressed at the hearing were overwhelmingly in favor of the proposed districts as being the most relevant way to protect our history and streetscapes for all. The audience of 55 people represented a cross section on neighborhood residents with 24 signing up to speak in favor of the Historic Districts, 9 opposed and 2 undecided;

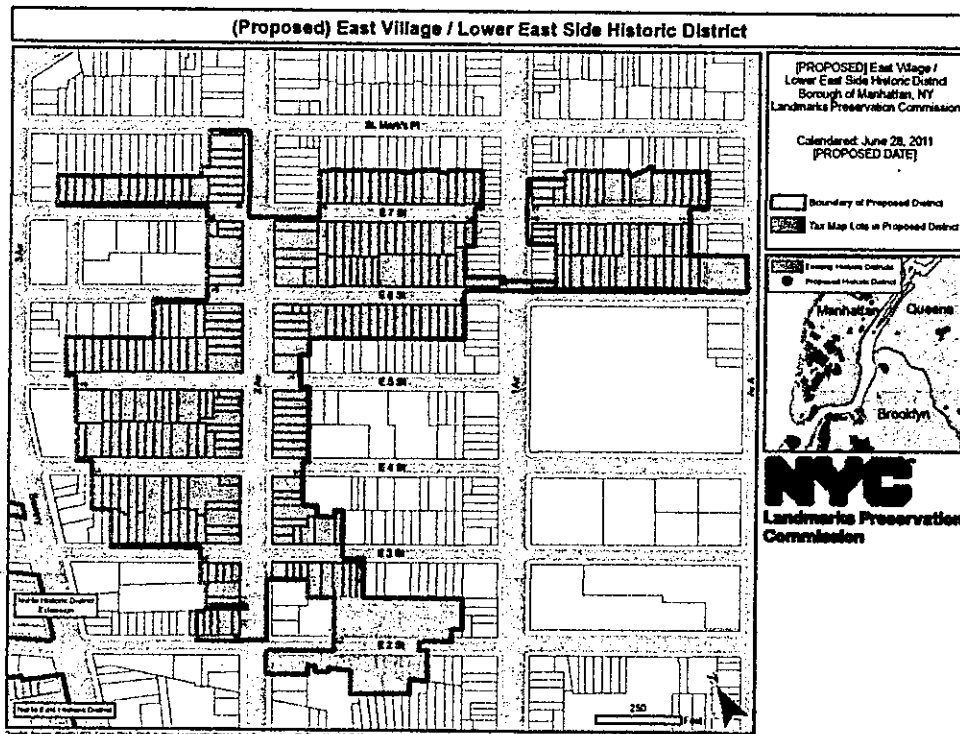
Therefore, CB#3 supports the Landmarks Preservation Commission's designation of the East Village / Lower East Side as a Historic District, including a provision that the concerns of the religious organizations be taken into consideration, including them in conversations with the LPC to allay those concerns, and urging all parties to work together to help to preserve the history and character of our neighborhood for the present as well as future generations of NYC and American citizens.

Sincerely,

*Dominic Pisciotta*

Dominic Pisciotta, Chair  
Community Board #3

cc: Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer  
Council Member Rosie Mendez  
NYS Assembly Member Sheldon Silver  
NYSA Deborah J. Glick  
NYSA Brian P. Kavanagh  
NYS Senator Daniel Squadron



<http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb3/downloads/cb3docs/July%202011%20LPC%20Proposed%20District%202nd%20Ave.JPG>



"We have preserved log cabins and farm houses and honored the gentry by preserving their mansions in homage to our rural history. But most Americans have their roots in urban America and the tenement is the quintessential embodiment of that experience."<sup>1</sup>

In the area now proposed as an historic district, that encompassing a part of the East Village and the Lower East Side north of Houston, we have an example of not only this quintessential American experience, but some of the very specific experiences that have made New York City such a special city, some of the major reasons that our city has become a major destination for tourists from all over the world. Our diversity, our innovations in life styles, our courage to offer haven to different nationalities and ethnic groups and our ability to worship in an environment that promotes tolerance have helped make us the city that we are today.

Kehila Kedosha Janina is an historical landmark in the city of New York and embodies all that New York City is: diverse and cosmopolitan.

We are also an example that landmarking works and that landmarking encourages improvements and pride. There are those religious institutions that somehow feel that landmarking a district where they are located would impede them. How? Why?

Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos  
Museum Director  
Kehila Kedosha Janina  
280 Broome Street  
New York, NY 10002

---

<sup>1</sup> Ruth Abram



## SAINT STANISLAUS B. & M. CHURCH

101 EAST 7<sup>th</sup> STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10009 • TEL. (212) 475-4576 • FAX: (212) 674-4894

Allow me to explain. When we finally were given access to the materials at the LPC offices, we discovered that there was NO STUDY OF ST. STANISLAUS PARISH, THERE WAS NO STUDY OF EAST 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET BETWEEN 1<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE AND AVENUE A, NOR OF ANY BUILDING ON THAT STREET. How can an entire block be declared a landmark when no study has been conducted?

Most recently, when we were sent what purported to be a final description of the St. Stanislaus church property it was full of errors, including misidentifying the rectory as the house of worship, etc.

Further, in a conversation last year with our representative, the LPC attorney, John Weiss stated to our representative that any renovation/maintenance to our premises could be conducted and that only an application to the LPC would be required for a permit.

When our representative pointed out that the LPC application required payment of fees, he hesitated and responded by stating that the cost of the application was less than that of the application to DOB. I am also aware that the LPC in earlier presentations made no mention of the fees involved in any and all applications, even if they were denied.

I am sure that you are aware that for each and every house of worship, any additional fees involved in the processing of permits are an additional burden. You must bear in mind that in the case of an aging building, where the repair/maintenance costs are large, the fees involved, which are a percentage of the cost of the project, increase the financial burden on the parish community which must pay not only for the architect and/or engineers, the materials and the labor, but the Department of Buildings fees – and were you to approve this landmarking proposal, the additional LPC fees.

Were our parish, in fact not liable for any additional fees to the City of New York, it would not obviate the fact that our architects would have to complete additional/more complex forms, and that our contractors would have to charge us additional fees due to LPC requirements. I refer specifically (although not solely) to the requirement that when painting the facade of a building, an owner must not only select colors from the LPC palette, but then must have their contractor paint a 3 by 3 foot test patch for inspection by the LPC. Such a delay in work complicates the process and places additional financial burdens on the property owner, in this case the parish.

The history of this community is important enough to present it correctly and accurately, and enough historical documented research exists to do so.

The financial burden placed on our house of worship, and others, in being required to pay additional fees is unwarranted and unconscionable. The costs involved in having to provide rehabilitation work, such as window replacement, at prices required by the LPC would also create a huge fiscal burden on our parish.

I therefore urge that you reject the application before you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Fr. Tadeusz R. Lizinczyk, OSPPE

Pastor



# SAINT STANISLAUS B. & M. CHURCH

101 EAST 7<sup>th</sup> STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10009 • TEL. (212) 475-4576 • FAX: (212) 674-4894

**Testimony before the Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses  
Concerning the designation of the East Village/Lower East Side Historic District**

**LU-0752-2013**

**Borough of Manhattan, Community Board 3, Council District 2**

**Tuesday, January 29, 2013**

Good morning Chairman Lander and members of the City Council Subcommittee on Landmarks, Siting and Maritime Uses. I am Fr. Tadeusz R. Lizinczyk, OSPPE and I am pleased to be here today to testify in opposition to the application before you that would establish a historic district in a large area of the Lower East Side.

Following today's hearing, you will vote on the landmark designation for a number of blocks in our community, including one in which the 137 year old parish I represent is located. This parish is the oldest Polish parish in the City of New York and continues serving its constituent members, in some cases in the third and fourth generation. We are not only aware of our historic role as the Mother Church of Polish Parishes in the New York Archdiocese, but we celebrate our ongoing role in serving the Polish community of New York. We do not treat our history as a fanciful theme park; we recognize and honor it.

Regrettably, those are not the intentions or understanding of the Landmarks Preservation Commission or the various non-profits attempting to determine our fate. They neither know nor participate in our Masses or celebrations.

Before you make your decision I want you to know that as Pastor of the church both I and the preceding pastors have worked and continue to work on the maintenance and upkeep of the physical structures of the parish, which include the church, rectory and parish house. In only the past decade we have had to mount major fundraising campaigns to replace the copper roof of our sanctuary building, to repair the historic organs – which could have been replaced at a tenth of the cost with something electric and modern, and any number of other items both on the interior and exterior of our buildings. We do this because we honor the physical plant our predecessors built.

Our parishioners, many of them from this very community and having born here, have sacrificed greatly to contribute to these needed replacements and repairs.

Yet the Landmarks Preservation Commission has not only not consulted with our parish concerning our history in this community, which I must advise you has been misrepresented, but in their response they have refused to acknowledge their error. This is a mark of disrespect to the very community they claim to respect. (In brief, among other errors, the LPC states that the Polish community began its settling in this community in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, while by that time we had some 5 Polish bookstores from Houston Street to the 7<sup>th</sup> Street area and the Polish community mustered over 10,000 persons for a march to City Hall and returned to Cooper Union to hold a rally. They also claim that we began to out-migrate from the community after WWII, which was a time when many new immigrants, victims of the both the Soviet and Nazi aggressors of World War II began to arrive in our area)

Additionally the LPC, for a period of over 2 months, refused to give us access to view the documents they used to prepare their historical preservation, by denying both our request and our FOIL applications to view these materials. Ultimately, the few pages of material which they presented to us did not contain anything pertinent to a landmarking of these premises. This is part of a campaign of camouflage and concealment that is applied to us and even extends to the information that you probably have as well.

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

LC752

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1-29-2003

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ROBERT WATLINGTON

Address: 103 SECOND AVE #4B

I represent: FILLMORE EAST SIXTH BLOCK ASSOC.

Address: 103 SECOND AVE. N.Y.C. 10003

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 752 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/29/2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Enrique Lopez

Address: 322 8th Ave New York, NY 10001

I represent: NYS Senator Brad Hoylman

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

LC752

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Stella Dong

Address: 59 St Marks Pl

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

752

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Tom Birchard (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 144 Second Ave

I represent: Vespa K9

Address: 144 Second Avenue

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 11752 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor  in opposition

Date: 11/29

Name: SARA ROMANOSKI (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 143 AVE B - SIMPLEX

I represent: EAST VILLAGE COMMUNITY

Address: 143 AVE B - SIMPLEX

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 772 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor  in opposition

Date: Jan 27 2013

Name: Linda Eskenas (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 1674 Richmond Terrace

I represent: The Four Borough Neighborhood Preservation

Address: North Shore Waterfront Alliance  
Greenway

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

752

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/29/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michele Campo

Address: 184 Bowery

I represent: Kathryn Feldman

Address: 230 E. 5th St

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. East Village Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/29/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Simon Bruckoff

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Historic Districts Council

Address: 232 E 11 St NY 10003

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 10752 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mitchell Grubler

Address: 20 Confucius Plaza Apt 40c 10002

I represent: Bowery Alliance of Neighbors

Address: 184 Bowery #4 NYC 10012

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: YOLANDA FERNANDEZ

Address: 125 2 AVENUE

I represent: SELF

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. L4752 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/27/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Philip Van Aver

Address: 515 E. 6th St, \*A-6 NY 10009

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 752 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARCIA IKONOMPOULOS

Address: 280 Brome Street

I represent: kehila kedosha TANINA & LESPI

Address: 8

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 752

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/29/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Andrea Goldwyn

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: NY Landmarks Conservancy

Address: 1 Whitehall St NYC 10004

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 752

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/29/13 <sup>EAST VILLAGES</sup> <sub>H.O.</sub>

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: RICHARD MOSES

Address: 142 E. 16TH ST. NYC

I represent: LOWER EAST SIDE PRESERVATION INITIATIVE

Address: 232 E. 11TH ST.

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

752

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 752

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/29/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JEAN STANDISH

Address: 308 E. 6TH ST. NY NY 10003

I represent: Borough Alliance of Neighbors

Address: Lower East Side Preservation Initiative

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms



**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 752 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1-29-13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Clayton Smith

Address: 504 GRAND ST #B24 10002

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Cathy Ratcliffe

Address: 608 E. 9th St #1511

I represent: ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

Address: 1

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

LU752

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/29/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARIE BEIRNE

Address: 3 Peter Cooper Pool NY 10010

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

LU 752

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/29/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Amanda Davis

Address: 232 East 11th Street NYC

I represent: Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation

Address: same

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 752 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/29/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jenny Fernandez

Address: 1 Centre Street 9th Fl NYC

I represent: LPC

Address: 8/11th

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

752

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 752 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/29/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: PATRICIA MELVIN

Address: 129 Second Ave - #3 NYC 10003

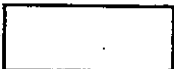
I represent: Myself

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 752 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1.29.13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mary Beth Beth

Address: 1 Centre St

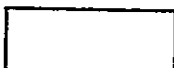
I represent: Landmarks Pres Comm

Address: 1 Centre St

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. LV 752

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/29/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: KRYSTYNA PIORKOWSKA

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. LV 752  
 in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/29/13

Name: ANNA CISOWSKI (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: ST. STANISLAUS PTM CHURCH

Address: 101 E. 7TH ST

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Liliya Magid (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 570 Lexington Ave. NY, NY

I represent: REBNY

Address: 570 Lexington Ave. NY, NY

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms