



OFFICE OF THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT  
THE BRONX COUNTY BUILDING  
851 GRAND CONCOURSE  
BRONX, NEW YORK 10451

RUBEN DIAZ, JR.  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

TEL. 718-590-3500  
FAX. 718-590-3537  
E-MAIL: rdiazjr@bronxbp.nyc.gov

TESTIMONY OF  
BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT RUBEN DIAZ JR  
ON THE DESIGNATION OF  
THE BRONX GENERAL POST OFFICE LOBBY FIRST FLOOR INTERIOR  
TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES  
PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 18, 2014

Commanding the intersection of the Grand Concourse and East 149<sup>th</sup> Street, the Bronx General Post Office has been a focal point for those working, living or visiting the Bronx since it first opened in 1937.

The Bronx GPO is a significant example of a grand public space. Its outer perimeter precincts create a sense of place and aspiration that an important public service is being provided therein. Its exterior forms a focal point for all who traverse this intersection.

Beyond the grand exterior is the true heart of the building – where the public has been served for more than 75 years. The interior lobby is the place where citizens communicate with the world by posting their mail, applying for passports and completing financial transactions. The grand interior space is glorified with the notable murals by Ben Shahn, making the ordinary transactions of business at this facility an ennobling experience.

Concern has been made for preserving the famous murals, but their display in any lesser circumstances would be inadequate. This additional protection is especially welcome, given that the United States Postal Service has essentially refused to engage the people of The Bronx in the ongoing process to sell this structure.

The Bronx GPO is not merely a retail facility but a great public space that respects those who visit and those who work here- one of those great public spaces that are disappearing from everyday life all too frequently.

I continue to enthusiastically endorse the designations of the Bronx General Post Office Lobby interior at 588 Grand Concourse as official landmark of New York City.

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. LU-34 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/18/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jenny Fernandez

Address: 1 Centre Street 9th Fl. NY

I represent: Lunenburgs Preschool - Comm

Address: NA/A

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. LU34 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/18/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Thomas Lucania

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

I represent: Bronx Boro President

Address: Rubén Diaz Jr.

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