

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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December 6, 2010
Start: 11:22am
Recess: 11:40am

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
BRAD S. LANDER
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Council Member Margaret S. Chin
Council Member Rosie Mendez
Council Member Annabel Palma
Council Member James Sanders, Jr.
Council Member Jumaane D. Williams

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

Jenny Fernandez
Director of Intergovernmental and Community Relations
Landmarks Preservation Commission

Amy Levitan
Representative
Land Use Division

2 [silence for first 30 seconds;
3 background noise]

4 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Good morning,
5 this beating down the doors to get in hearing of
6 the Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and
7 Maritime Uses is called to order. I'm Brad Lander
8 and with us this morning we have Council Member
9 Rosie Mendez, Council Member James Sanders,
10 Council Member Jumaane Williams. We have two
11 items on the calendar today, the third items, the
12 Loews Canal Theater, at 31 Canal Street, 20115271
13 HKM, is being laid over. So, we have one item in
14 Council Member Mendez' district and one item in
15 Council Member Chin's district. Since she's a
16 distinguished member of our Committee and present,
17 we'll do the one in Council Member Mendez'
18 district first. That is 20115270, the 11th Street
19 Methodist Episcopal Chapel, located at 545-547
20 East 11th Street in Manhattan. And we'll ask
21 Jenny Fernandez from the Landmarks Preservation
22 Commission to come and present the testimony.
23 [pause] That's okay.

24 JENNY FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair
25 Lander, Members of the Committee, my name is Jenny

2 Fernandez, Director of Intergovernmental and
3 Community Relations for the Landmarks Preservation
4 Commission. I'm here today to testify on the
5 Commission's designation of the 11th Street
6 Methodist Episcopal Church in Manhattan. March
7 23, 2010, the Landmarks Preservation Commission
8 held a public hearing on the proposed designation
9 as a landmark of the 11th Street Methodist
10 Episcopal Chapel. Later, People's Home Church,
11 and Settlement and now the Father's Home Hearts
12 Church. There were five speakers in favor of
13 designation, including the owner of the building,
14 the owner's architect, City Council Member Rosie
15 Mendez, Representatives of the Lower East Side
16 Preservation Initiative, Historic Districts
17 Council and the Greenwich Village Society for
18 Historic Preservation. There were no speakers in
19 opposition to designation. The Commission
20 received one letter from the Metropolitan Chapter
21 of the Victorian Society in support of
22 designation. On September 14, 2010, the Commission
23 voted to designate the building a New York City
24 individual landmark. The 11th Street Methodist
25 Episcopal Chapel was constructed in 1867/68 to the

design of prominent architects William Field & Son. The firm is best known as the architects of affordable apartment houses, and this is one of the few known houses of worship that they designed. By the mid-19th Century, the gothic revival style had become the standard for church buildings in the United States. Gothic revival style features of the church include the window hood moldings, pointed fins on the roof; however, the squares with stylized flower designs in the corners are decorative, eclectic features that are highly unusual. Architects Gelade [phonetic] and Barber altered the front façade of the church 1901. After the alterations, the Mission reopened with a new name, the People's Home Church and Settlement, and its institutional work was enlarged. Mission churches, such as the 11th Street Methodist Episcopal Chapel provided social services in addition to religious, evangelical work. The Methodist Episcopal Church closed in 1930 and sold the building to the Russian Ukrainian Polish Pentecostal Church in 1941. Its successor still occupies the premises, the Father's Hearth Church. The work of the church

2 today, like its 19th Century predecessors, include
3 religious and social services. The Commission
4 urges you to affirm this designation.

5 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thanks very
6 much, Ms. Fernandez. Council Member Mendez, do
7 you have either questions or comments.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Yes. To
9 everyone's surprise, I do endorse this
10 designation. But to my own surprise, I thought we
11 had done it already, just 'cause [laughter] I had
12 gone to give testimony and when I was at Father's
13 Hearts Ministries two weeks ago, I announced that
14 it was landmarked. And I wasn't corrected by
15 anybody there. [laughter] And it's a really
16 beautiful place, that as its transition from one
17 religion to another has continued, at its core, to
18 provide to my community much needed services to
19 the poor. That has not changed. And when I was
20 there two weeks ago, we served 800 people meals.
21 People start lining up at 6:00 a.m., to get in to
22 get their hot meal at 10:00, and by 1:00 o'clock
23 they also leave with a bag of food. This is one
24 of the many things that Father's Heart ministry
25 does in my district, and they're now doing a

2 capital campaign to renovate and to keep the
3 historic aspects of this beautiful church. So, I
4 just welcome anyone who wants to serve food with
5 me on a Saturday, come on down, let me know.

6 Thank you very much.

7 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thanks very
8 much, and I, this is implicit in, in what you were
9 saying, but the church supports the designation of
10 the building, and I think to do all the programs
11 that you've talked about, and to provide all those
12 meals and to minister to the poor, and to act as,
13 you know, such responsible stewards of an
14 architectural and historic treasure in the City is
15 something worthy of praise and commendation, as
16 well. So, thanks to you and thanks to them. Any
17 other questions from members of the Committee?
18 Okay, seeing none, and we don't have anyone signed
19 up to testify on this, on this item, so [laughs]
20 we'll close the public hearing on, on that item
21 and move to our next one. And we've been joined
22 by, I think we've been joined by Council Member
23 Margaret Chin, whose bill, whose district this
24 building is in. This is project--Oh, I'm sorry,
25 and also Council Member Annabel Palma, a Member of

2 the Committee, good morning. We'll move on to
3 Project 20115269, the 97 Bowery Building in
4 Manhattan.

5 JENNY FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair
6 Lander. Again, for the record, my name is Jenny
7 Fernandez, Director of Intergovernmental and
8 Community Relations for the Landmarks Preservation
9 Commission. I'm here today to testify on the
10 Commission's designation of the 97 Bowery Building
11 in Manhattan. On June 22, 2010, the Landmarks
12 Preservation Commission held a public hearing on
13 the proposed designation as a landmark of 97
14 Bowery Building. There were three speakers in
15 favor of designation, including two
16 representatives of the Bowery Alliance of
17 Neighbors, and a representative from the
18 Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society of
19 America. The Commission has also received a
20 statement from Mitchell Grubler, the Chair of the
21 Landmarks Committee of the Bowery Alliance of
22 Neighbors, as well as several letters and emails
23 of supportive designation. On September 14, 2010,
24 the Commission voted to designate the building a
25 New York City individual landmark. The 97 Bowery

2 Building is a five story, 25 foot wide early
3 Italianate style, significantly intact, cast iron
4 frontage store and loft building. Built in 1869
5 for John P. Jube, and designed by architect Peter
6 L.P. Tostevin. The building was occupied until
7 1935 by John P. Jube & Co., a hardware and
8 carriage supply business. 97 Bowery was built in
9 a time when the Bowery was a major thoroughfare
10 through the Lower East Side, and a major
11 commercial street with specialty shops, dry good
12 stores and fancy hardware businesses. The 97
13 Bowery Building is typical of commercial, cast
14 iron construction during the 1850s and 1860s. It
15 is likely the various elements of design were
16 selected from a catalog of standardized cast iron
17 components. Today, 97 Bowery remains an important
18 reminder of the Bowery's commercial emergence
19 after the Civil War, and is a rare example of cast
20 iron architecture in this particular area of the
21 City. The Commission urges you to affirm this
22 designation.

23 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thanks very
24 much. Council Member Chin, do you have comments
25 or questions?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I support
3 this designation. I think it's very important.
4 On the Bowery to try to maintain and preserve
5 whatever buildings that we can, that shows the
6 history of that area. And there's been a lot of
7 development going on, especially on the East Side
8 of Bowery, so it's really such a treasure that
9 we're able to find a building that we can protect
10 and preserve. So, I urge the Committee to support
11 it.

12 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thanks very
13 much. While, while I fully support the
14 designation of this building, and hope my
15 colleagues will as well, I do like to point out or
16 feel it's our responsibility to point out, that in
17 this case the owner of the building is not in
18 support of designation, and some of our colleagues
19 not on this Committee but in the Council, like to
20 have that information. So, I want to make sure
21 it's part of the public record. Any other
22 questions from Members of the Committee? I don't,
23 no one else, no one has signed up to testify, and
24 I don't believe that the owner testified at the
25 LPC hearing, so that's correct? It's anecdotal

1 SUBCOMM LANDMARKS, PUB SITING, MARITIME USES 11
2 information presented on this piece of paper that
3 says the owner is not in, in support. So, I don't
4 know whether they, how they must have communicated
5 that to us, somehow. But we don't have written
6 testimony or--Oh, and they haven't contacted the
7 Council Member, so it's--

8 JENNY FERNANDEZ: Chair Lander?

9 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Do you know
10 how we know this?

11 JENNY FERNANDEZ: Yes, the, the
12 owners did not appear at the Commission and did
13 not testify in support or, you know, or post a
14 designation. But at a meeting that we had with
15 the owners, they did express that they weren't
16 supportive of designation. But that's, that's the
17 only information that we have in terms of their
18 position. But they've not--

19 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Okay, they
20 haven't, they didn't come to the LPC or they
21 haven't communicated with the Council Member.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [off mic]
23 Yeah.

24 JENNY FERNANDEZ: And we've
25 encouraged them to do so.

2 AMY LEVITAN: Just, just as part
3 of--Amy Levitan, Land Use Division. As part of
4 the Land Use staff, our role is to provide a
5 briefing, 'cause this is often asked by members--

6 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Yes.

7 AMY LEVITAN: --whether somebody's
8 in favor or not. A letter is sent to all owners
9 when we have a landmark on, so this is just a
10 point of information that's just generally done.

11 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: All right,
12 thanks to Ms. Levitan and the staff for, for
13 gathering this important information. It does,
14 you know, it's obviously a think that's important
15 to know and that, that several of our colleagues
16 want to know about, about all these landmark
17 actions. Okay, any other questions from Members
18 of the Committee? Okay, and we don't have anyone
19 signed up else to testify on, on this item, as
20 well, so we'll close the public hearing on 97
21 Bowery Building, and move forward to a vote.
22 Again, we're voting on two items today, 20115269,
23 the 97 Bowery Building, and 20115270, the 11th
24 Street Methodist Episcopal Chapel. Our Committee
25 Counsel Christian Hilton will call the roll. The

2 Chair recommends a vote of aye.

3 COUNSEL: Chair Lander.

4 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Aye.'

5 COUNSEL: Council Member Sanders.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.

7 COUNSEL: Council Member Palma.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

9 COUNSEL: Council Member Mendez.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

11 COUNSEL: Council Member Williams.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

13 COUNSEL: By a vote of five in the
14 affirmative, none in the negative, no abstentions,
15 LU 21--271 and 270 are approved and referred to
16 the full Land Use Committee.

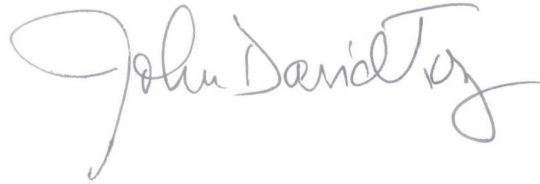
17 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thanks very
18 much. This meeting of the Subcommittee is
19 adjourned.

20 [gavel]

21

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JOHN DAVID TONG certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John David Tong". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the printed word "Signature".

Signature

Date December 22, 2010