

TESTIMONY OF THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES ON THE DESIGNATION OF THE PARK SLOPE HISTORIC DISTRICT EXTENSION IN BROOKLYN.

July 23, 2012

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 Park Slope Historic District Extension in Brooklyn.

On October 26, 2010, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation of the Park Slope Historic District Extension. Twenty-three people spoke in favor of designation, including Council Members Brad Lander and Steve Levin, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, a representative of Assembly Member Joan L. Millman, a representative of Community Board 6, representatives of the Park Slope Civic Council, the Historic Districts Council, the Landmarks Conservancy, and the Park Slope Chamber of Commerce, and several residents of the proposed district. One person spoke in opposition to designation. In addition, written testimony in opposition to the designation was submitted after the hearing by the owners of 414 and 414A 7th Avenue, 412 13th Street, 500 7th Street, and 412 13th Street; and a written request to be removed from the district was submitted by the owners of 496 14th Street. The Commissioners reviewed these requests and determined all of those buildings merited inclusion in the district. On April 17, 2012 the Commission voted to designate the Park Slope Historic District Extension.

The Park Slope Historic District Extension includes approximately 600 buildings located immediately to the west and south of the Park Slope Historic District, which was designated by the Landmarks Preservation Commission in 1973, and the three buildings on Prospect Park West between 9th and 10th Streets that were omitted from the original historic district designation. Park Slope is located west of Prospect Park and is bounded by Flatbush Avenue to the north, 15th Street to the south, Fourth Avenue to the west, and Prospect Park West to the east. The earliest houses in the Park Slope Historic District Extension were built in the Italianate style of architecture, popular from about 1840 to 1870. The Park Slope Historic District Extension remains one of Brooklyn's most architecturally distinguished areas, retaining some of the borough's most beautiful and well-preserved residential streets, and features a broad array of outstanding residential, institutional and industrial architecture in popular late-19th and early-20th centuries styles, including the Italianate, neo-Grec, Queen Anne, Romanesque Revival, Renaissance Revival and Colonial Revival. The area continues to retain its cohesion due

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THE CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND
MARITIME USES ON THE DESIGNATION OF THE BARBIZON HOTEL FOR
WOMEN IN MANHATTAN.**

July 23, 2012

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 Barbizon Hotel for Women in Manhattan.

On July 26, 2011, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Barbizon Hotel for Women. A total of two witnesses, representing the Friends of the Upper East Side and the Historic Districts Council, spoke in favor of the designation. On July 20, 2011, the Full Board of Manhattan Community Board 8 adopted a resolution in support of the designation. In August 2011, Council Member Daniel R. Garodnick wrote to the Commission indicating his support for the designation. The Commission received three additional letters and two e-mails of support, including an e-mail message on behalf of Place Matters. There were no speakers or letters in opposition to the designation. Commission staff met with a representative of the owner on February 8, 2011. At that meeting, a May calendaring and June public hearing were agreed upon. Commission staff remained in communication with the owner regarding work being done to the building. The owner has not stated opposition to the designation and chose not to attend the public hearing. On April 17, 2012 the Commission voted to designate the building a New York City individual landmark.

The Barbizon Hotel for Women was built in 1927-28 as a residential hotel and clubhouse for single women, who at that time were moving to New York City in record numbers to take advantage of new professional opportunities. The demand for inexpensive housing for single women led to the construction of several large residential hotels in Manhattan. Of these, the Barbizon, which was equipped with special studio, rehearsal and concert spaces to attract young women pursuing careers in the arts, became the most renowned. Its residents included many women who later became prominent actresses, writers, designers, and professional women, including author Sylvia Plath, who wrote about her residence at the Barbizon in *The Bell Jar*. The Barbizon also promoted women's organizations and arts organizations, providing meeting space to groups such as the National Junior League, Arts Council of New York, and women's college clubs.

Designed by the prominent hotel specialists Murgatroyd & Ogden, the 23-story Barbizon Hotel is an excellent representative of the 1920s apartment hotel building, and is notable for the high quality of its

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Appearance Card

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in favor in opposition

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(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JOHN CASSON

Address: 194 Berkeley Place

I represent: Park Slope Civic Council

Address: _____

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Name: PETER BRAY

Address: 237 GARFIELD PL

I represent: PARK SLOPE CIVIC COUNCIL

Address: _____

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Name: Corinne Maulsby

Address: 73 8th Ave, Apt 2, Brooklyn NY 11215

I represent: Park Slope Civic Council

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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 634 Res. No. _____

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Name: Jenny Fernandez

Address: 1 Centre Street 9th Floor North

I represent: LPC

Address: S/A/A

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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 640 Res. No. _____

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Name: Jenny Fernandez

Address: 1 Centre Street 9th Floor North

I represent: LPC

Address: S/A/A

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