



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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George Fernández Jr. - Chairman
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

Feb. 2, 2015

Hon. Robert B. Tierney
Chair
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street 9th Floor, North
New York, N.Y. 10007

Dear Chairman Tierney:

Please be advised that at the General Meeting of Manhattan Community Board 12 held on Thursday, January 29, 2015 a resolution passed with a majority vote of (29) In Favor, (0), Opposed, and (0) Abstain calling upon the Landmarks Preservation Commission to engage in ongoing dialogue and partnership with community residents to advance the designation of historic districts and structures in Washington Heights and Inwood.

Whereas: Since 2009 Community Board 12-Manhattan ("CB12M") passed 10 resolutions that evidence its support for historic preservation. They include resolutions supporting the designation of new historic districts and structures, modifications to designated structures and the evaluation of proposed historic districts and structures; and

Whereas: In a resolution passed in 2009 supporting the designation of the Audubon Park Historic District, CB12M urged the Landmarks Preservation Commission ("LPC") to diligently and expeditiously undertake the work necessary to recommend an expansion of Audubon Park to include the late-1800s brownstones on West 158th Street, between the Henry Hudson Parkway and Riverside Drive, and the buildings on Riverside Drive north of West 158th Street. To date LPC has not taken action on or engaged in dialogue with CB12M concerning this matter; and

Whereas: The resolution passed in 2012 supporting the work undertaken by the Inwood residents organized as the Volunteers for Isham Park ("VIP") requested that LPC further study the potential for individual landmarks and historic districts in Inwood and give special attention to the Request for Evaluation submitted by VIP for the William A. Hurst House. To date LPC also has not taken action on or engaged in dialogue with CB12M concerning these matters; and

Whereas: CB12M in collaboration with City College undertook a district-wide land use planning study (the "Study") for Washington Heights and Inwood that included a chapter on buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest that merited further study and evaluation for historic designation. In 2007 a copy of the Executive Summary of the Study was provided to LPC as well as other City

agencies. One of the properties identified in the historic preservation chapter is the Loew's 175th Street Theater aka United Palace (the "United Palace"), which has been pending before the LPC since 1970. To date LPC has not met with CB12M to discuss the buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest cited in the Study, but its late 2014 proposal to de-calendar 96 properties from consideration for historic designation included the United Palace; and

Whereas: Washington Heights and Inwood represent an important era in the development and the urbanization of the island of Manhattan and are linked to the earliest period in our national history. Its place in the history of this city and nation deserves more attention, respect and acknowledgement; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: Community Board 12-Manhattan calls upon the Landmarks Preservation Commission to engage in ongoing dialogue and partnership with CB12M and community residents to advance the designation of historic districts and structures in Washington Heights and Inwood.

We look forward to a favorable response to this request.

Sincerely,



George Fernandez, Jr.
Chair

cc: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Gail Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Charles B. Rangel, Congressman

Hon. Adriano Espaillat, NY State Senator
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member