

Antony Wong, Treasurer Keen Berger, Secretary Daniel Miller, Assistant Secretary

COMMUNITY BOARD No. 2, MANHATTAN

3 Washington Square Village New York, NY 10012-1899

www.cb2manhattan.org
P: 212-979-2272 F: 212-254-5102 E: info@cb2manhattan.org
Greenwich Village * Little Italy * SoHo * NoHo * Hudson Square * Chinatown * Gansevoort Market

November 21, 2016

Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission One Centre St., 9th Floor North New York, New York 10007

Dear Chair Srinivasan:

At its Full Board meeting on November 17, 2016, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

FIRST LANDMARKS MEETING

1. <u>55 Gansevoort St.</u> – Application is to replace the granite sidewalk in-kind, alter the storefront, paint new windows, construct a rooftop addition, raise the parapets at the roof, install a new cornice, and install a glass wind screen at the roof.

Whereas:

- A. The architecture of the building is relatively decorative for the district, including the cornice to be installed, and the building is highly visible from an important crossing; and
- B. The penthouse structure is of a reasonable size and located at a far corner of the building to minimize visibility from public thoroughfares; and
- C. The raising the height of the roof **above** the cornice for the purpose of accommodating a swimming pool –increases the visibility of the roof structure (82' above grade) and creates an odd and unacceptable visibility of the roof edge above the cornice; and
- D. There is a 7'- 2" high glass windscreen proposed around the perimeter of the roof supported by thick vertical metal supports, located flush with the masonry facade and is visible to an unacceptable degree; and
- E. The Committee received a number of letters from the community in opposition to the application: now

Therefore be it resolved that CB2, Man. recommends denial of the application unless:

- A. The roof elevation is lowered and no higher than flush with the height of the cornice and ideally below the top of the cornice with the resulting decreased visibility of the penthouse; and
- B. The windscreen is lowered to the height of a usual rooftop railing (42'') and the vertical metal supports are eliminated.



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Dear Chair Srinivasan:

At its Full Board meeting on November 17, 2016, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

2. <u>107 Mercer St.</u> – Application is to install signage.

Whereas:

- **A.** The building is 25' wide and 5 stories high; and
- B. The proposed flag sign is 4'wide X 3' high in white material with black lettering and its bottom edge hangs 9' above the street and it replaces a 2' X 3' blade sign; and
- C. No detailed drawings were shown of the 5'- 8" pole and its method of being attached to the façade to ensure that historic material is not compromised; now

Therefore be it resolved:

That CB2, Man. recommends approval of this application provided that LPC reviews and approves of the method of attaching the flagpole to the building and that it does not obstruct the fire escape.

Vote: Unanimous, with 37 Board members in favor.

3. 29 W. 8th St. – Application is to install new windows at the front Façade.

(Laid over)



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Dear Chair Srinivasan:

At its Full Board meeting on November 17, 2016, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

4. 594 Broadway – Application is to replace the windows in the second floor front facade.

Whereas:

- A. The windows on the upper floors have been replaced with approved windows of similar appearance to the proposed second floor replacements; and
- B. The applicant represented that the change the type of operation from pivot to casement is in order to preserve the existing profile:
- C. The appearance of the windows from street level is unchanged; now

Therefore be it resolved:

That CB2, Man. recommends approval of this application.



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Dear Chair Srinivasan:

At its Full Board meeting on November 17, 2016, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

5. 33 Howard St.- Application is to install an ADA compliant lift located within the existing sidewalk loading dock at the front entrance.

Whereas:

- A. The lift fits into the existing loading dock footprint at the east end of the dock; and
- B. The applicant represented that the lift would be painted black in order to visually blend in with the dock when it is at ground level storage level; and
- C. It opens directly into an existing secondary entrance; and
- D. It is evident that the configuration of the building precludes construction of an ADA compliant ramp; now

Now therefore be it resolved:

That CB2, Man. recommends approval of this application.



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Dear Chair Srinivasan:

At its Full Board meeting on November 17, 2016, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

6. <u>568 Broadway</u> - Application is to legalize storefront alterations installed without LPC permit(s).

Whereas:

- A. The previous, LPC approved, existing condition was not properly maintained by the applicant and was not replaced in kind; and
- B. The existing opaque sign replacement presents a larger viewable area than the previous, approved sign and obstructs the architecturally significant transom windows; now

Be it resolved that:

CB2, Man. recommends denial of this application.



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Dear Chair Srinivasan:

At its Full Board meeting on November 17, 2016, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

7. <u>470 Hudson St.</u> – Application is to legalize signage and storefront alterations installed without LPC permits, and relocation of refrigeration unit.

Whereas:

- A. The existing canvas signs evoking the edges of awnings are to be relocated from in front of the transom windows to flat mounted on the masonry above; and
- B. The transom windows are in clear glass; and
- C. The vitrines, though not usual for the district, appear as standard display windows suitable to the building; and
- D. The proposed installations in the vitrines give no view into the store and look similar to temporary window coverings to block views of construction within; and
- E. The applicant provided no examples of the actual proposed installations in the vitrines and described them vaguely as "works of art"; and
- F. The air -conditioner is to be installed in an unobtrusive location in the alley beside the building; now

Therefore be it resolved that CB2, Man. recommends:

A. Approval of the signs, transom windows, and air-conditioner condenser placement; and

B. Denial of the proposal for the instillations in the vitrines unless a master plan is formulated for the installations that provides for at least partial views into the store and it is submitted to CB2, Man. for review and recommendation to LPC.



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Dear Chair Srinivasan:

At its Full Board meeting on November 17, 2016, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

2ND LANDMARKS MEETING

8. 69 Gansevoort St. - Application is to install storefront infill.

Whereas:

- A. The front facade and infill has been rebuild to resemble the prior condition with salvaged brick and reproductions of aluminum panels with new doors, a lower configuration of the window, and a new entrance door without transom; and
- B. The iconic sign has been refurbished and replaced in its original position; and
- C. A blade sign in a size conforming to regulations is proposed to be installed at the eastern edge of the facade with its bottom edge 8', rather that than the usual 10', above the sidewalk in order to be able to be secured in a manner that will not harm historic fabric; now

Therefore be it resolved:

That CB2, Man. recommends approval of this application



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Dear Chair Srinivasan:

At its Full Board meeting on November 17, 2016, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

9. <u>38 Bethune St.</u> – Application is to replace the existing garage door and entrance door, close an existing 1st floor window, reconfigure the front window openings at the 2nd and 3rd floors, add rooftop elevator and stair bulkhead, and replace existing stair bulkhead.

Whereas:

- A. The style of window infill proposed is in keeping with the style of the building and replaces non-historic windows; and
- B. The openings of the windows on the two upper floors are to be enlarged in a fashion that alters the sense of separated punched windows, destroys historic fabric, and violates the strong vertical thrust of the masonry that defines the historic design; and
- C. A small window above the entrance is to be blinded to match the windows on the same level which brings a welcome unity to the row; and
- D. Lot line windows are proposed in the west wall that are higher than the existing windows on the facade; and
- E. The proposed garage door is suitable to the style of the building; and
- F. The bulkhead is to be slightly enlarged and reoriented to be minimally visible; and
- G. There are to be minimal adjustments to the window placement in the rear facade; now

Therefore be it resolved:

- A. That CB2, Man. recommends approval of the replacement of the window infill, blinding of the window on the front facade, the garage door, the bulkhead, and the rear facade windows; and
- B. Denial of the alteration of window openings on the front facade, and
- C. Denial of the lot line windows unless they are the same height as the front facade windows on the corresponding floors.



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Dear Chair Srinivasan:

At its Full Board meeting on November 17, 2016, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

10. 54 Bond St. - Application to install a blade sign mounted on a vertical pole and to install a plaque sign on the areaway fence.

Whereas:

- A. A sign for the business exists in the dimi-lune transom window over the entrance; and
- B. A blade sign in conforming size is to be mounted to a pole in the areaway beside the entrance; and
- C. A wooden sign, out of keeping with the building, is to be attached with to the areaway fence is proposed; now

Therefore be it resolved:

- A. That CB2, Man. recommends approval of the pole mounted blade sign; and
- B. Denial of the wooden sign on the fence.



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Dear Chair Srinivasan:

At its Full Board meeting on November 17, 2016, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

11. 50 King St. – Application is to remove concrete sidewalk paving and a brick areaway cheekwall and install a ramp with railings.

Whereas:

- A. The ramp extends into the sidewalk 44 inches from property line; sunken to slope down to entrance 18" below grade; and
- B. The edge of the ramp will extend no further into the sidewalk than the stoops and areaways on either side of the building; now

Therefore be it resolved:

That CB2, Man. recommends approval of the application.



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Dear Chair Srinivasan:

At its Full Board meeting on November 17, 2016, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

- **12. 771-775 Washington St.** Application is to alter storefront, install new steel and glass windows, parapet restoration and extension, and construct a set back two-story rooftop addition.
 - A. The building lies within the Greenwich Village Historic district at the frontier of the historically residential and industrial ares and has been greatly altered, particularly the ground floor openings and the parapet.
 - B. The existing windows are in bad repair and the design has poor thermal qualities and the proposed replacements are in keeping with the industrial nature of the building.
 - C. The window and door openings, are to be regularized with new infill, recesses and detailing which recall, without reproducing, the original design; and
 - D. Three large openings from the era as a drive-in filling station have garage type door infill opening to form canopies for sidewalk dining and are awkwardly flush with the facade; and
 - E. Two trees are proposed near the edges of the building adjoining adjacent properties; and
 - F. The parapet is to be reconstructed generally to the historic profile, approximately three courses of brick higher; and
 - G. A two story addition, 22' 8" high, with a green roof occupying very substantial portion of the roof is in steel and glass and rises to 48' 8" above the sidewalk; and

- H. A metal rectilinear trellis which is intended to support greenery, covers the façade of the rooftop addition and is slightly inset from the parapet, presents a flat, vertical "wall" above the articulated parapet and substantially alters the appearance of the historic structure; and
- I. While rooftop additions to buildings of this style are not objectionable in principal, this design is inappropriate for this historic building and it unduly asserts itself and destroys the integrity of the building;
- J. There are examples approved less obtrusive rooftop additions to similar buildings in the neighborhood; and
- K. There is considerable community opposition to the rooftop addition and trellis and there were two letters of support for the application from tenants of the building; now

Therefore be it resolved that CB2, Man. recommends:

- A. Approval of the design for the historic portion of the building provided that the garage doors are recessed to be line with the entry doors and additional trees are planted along both facades; and
- B. Denial of the rooftop addition and trellis as inappropriate for this historic building and unduly assertive.



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Dear Chair Srinivasan:

At its Full Board meeting on November 17, 2016, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

13. 231 W. 11th St. – Application is to raise the height of the existing exterior fence at the front yard.

Whereas:

- A. The existing, historic fence, represented as in bad repair by the applicant, can clearly be restored; and
- B. The proposal is for a 5'8" fence of non-historic neutral design with an entry gate which is totally out of keeping with the house; and
- C. Though similar fences exist in the district, there was no testimony that they were approved by LPC; now

Be it resolved that CB2, Man. recommends denial of this application.



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Dear Chair Srinivasan:

At its Full Board meeting on November 17, 2016, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

- 14. <u>144 W. 14th St.</u> application is to replace an existing non-historic storefront and provide new signage, re-establish previously existing interior light well windows, and skylight at the buildings rear façade.
 - A. Whereas the infill of the ground and first floors has been altered over time; and
 - B. The upper floors appear to be of original design and provide an example for restoration of the lower floors; and
 - C. The proposed simple wood framed windows of a modern design with an absence of historic transoms, incorporating non-historic divided show windows and dark wooden window frames are at disturbingly at odds with condition seen in the upper floors;
 - D. There is a bold sign over the entrance which is unrelated to any historic precedent and obscures important detail of this remarkably intact building; now

Therefore be it resolved that CB2, Man. recommends:

- A. Denial of the infill alterations unless transoms, single pane show windows and the window frames are painted to match the existing frames on the upper floors; and
- A. Denial of the sign over the entryway.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,

Tobi Bergman, Chair Community Board #2, Manhattan Chenault Spence, Chair

Landmarks & Public Aesthetics Committee

Community Board #2, Manhattan

CS/fa

c: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman

Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator

Hon. Daniel L. Squadron, NY State Senator

Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Member

Hon. Alice Cancel, Assembly Member

Hon. Gale A, Brewer, Man. Borough President

Hon. Corey Johnson, Council Member

Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member

Hon. Rosie Mendez, Council Member

Lauren George, Director of Government & Community Relations,

Landmarks Preservation Commission