



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4**

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**J. LEE COMPTON**  
Chair

**MICHELLE SOLOMON**  
Acting District Manager

March 3, 2006

Hon. Robert Tierney  
Chair, Landmarks Preservation Commission  
One Center Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007

**Re: 409-411 West 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Chelsea Historic District**

Dear Chair Tierney:

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 thanks you for this opportunity to comment on proposed window alterations on the two rowhouses at 409-411 West 21<sup>st</sup> Street in the heart of the Chelsea Historic District. After a presentation by the applicant's architect to the Landmarks Taskforce of the Board on February 21, 2006, the full Board adopted the recommendation of the Taskforce to approve this application with the exception of the proposed materials of the windows on the front façades of the two houses.

The Board wishes to commend the applicant on his proposal to replicate the rare and distinctive historic configuration of the windows on the front façade of these rowhouses. Nevertheless, the Board cannot accept the cladding of the wooden sash in aluminum. Such a change vitiates the use of the historic wooden material and seriously diminishes the effect of the handsome windows that the choice of the historic configuration and base material of the windows is intended to restore.

On the other hand, the Board has no objection to the replacement of the rear windows by large-paned aluminum windows, even though the rear façade is largely visible from 22<sup>nd</sup> Street across a long-existing parking lot. The present rear windows are not historic in placement or configuration, so that an attempt to minimize their modern character by breaking up these large panes would not reflect the history of this purely secondary façade.

The Board urges acceptance of this proposal with the exception of the aluminum cladding on the front windows.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Compton  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Edward S. Kirkland  
Chair  
Landmarks Taskforce

cc: Elected Officials, Applicant, Chelsea West 400 Block Association