



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND**  
Chair

**ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.**  
District Manager

July 24, 2008

Hon. Robert B Tierney  
Chair  
Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Municipal Building, ninth floor  
One Center Street  
New York, NY 10007

**Re: 425 West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Chelsea Historic District**

Dear Chair Tierney:

Manhattan Community Board 4 is writing in regard to the proposed alterations to the row house at 425 West Street in the Chelsea Historic District. The Board believes the proposed changes are largely appropriate.

In particular the Board welcomes the proposed restoration of the façade. The removal of the enclosure of the projecting spiral staircase in the rear of the building, called "the silo" by the neighbors, will be a significant improvement to the building and to the character of the enclosed interior space of this block. Moving the stairs inside the main body of the building will enable removal of this particularly inappropriate feature and replacement of the rear façade below the historic brick upper stories with a less intrusive design close to the line of the historic façade.

The proposed new rear façade for the lower floors will consist of lozenge-shaped glass panes with the long axis on the vertical. While this is handsome and a major improvement, the Board asks if an arrangement of more rectangular forms reflecting the floors behind it might not be more fully appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jd".

Jean-Daniel Noland  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board 4

Cc:  
Applicant