



**DELORES RUBIN**  
Chair

**Jesse R. Bodine**  
District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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July 27, 2016

Chair Meenakshi Srinivasan  
Landmarks Preservation Committee  
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor North  
New York, NY 10007

**Re: 338 West 39th Street, New York, NY 10018**

Dear Chair Srinivasan,

A manufacturing loft-style building at 388 West 39th Street is being demolished to make way for a new hotel. The building was not landmarked, it is not within a historic district, but it is the first manufacturing loft-style building in the Hell's Kitchen South section of the Garment District to be razed. Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) fears it will not be the last.

The building at 338 was one of many designed by Parker & Schaffer for the developer Mack Kanner, who was instrumental in bringing the various garment-related trades together to form what would become New York's garment center. Kanner is responsible for many of the area's distinctive manufacturing loft-style buildings. Built primarily for utilitarian functions, these handsome buildings are notable for their wedding-cake setbacks, accented with highly decorative cast-stone ornamentation. Their destruction would be a loss to the architectural and historical fabric of our neighborhood.

MCB4 plans to submit a request for evaluation (RFE) to the Landmarks Preservation Committee (LPC) to explore establishing an historic district in Hell's Kitchen South. While we welcome investment in our community, we are committed to preserving our neighborhood's history, architecture, and unique sense of place. We look forward to LPC's assistance and guidance in this endeavor. Sincerely,

Delores Rubin  
Chair

Jean-Daniel Noland, Chair  
Clinton/Hell's Kitchen Land Use Committee

cc: Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Corey Johnson, City Council