



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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COREY JOHNSON
Chair

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

October 26, 2012

Hon. Robert B. Tierney
Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building, 9th floor
One Centre Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: 601 West 26th Street - windows

Dear Chair Tierney,

Manhattan Community Board 4 is writing about the application by Alan Gaynor + Company, P.C., Architects and Designers for approval of proposed work at 601 West 26th Street, the Starrett-Lehigh Building, an individual designated landmark.

The work consists of replacement of windows throughout. The building's windows are a primary character-defining feature of the building and warrant particular consideration. They were notable in their time as an early example of continuous ribbon windows with no intermediate masonry supports. The architect proposes replacing presumably original single-glazed steel factory-style windows with aluminum framed windows containing insulated glass. The proposed windows will be finished in durable Kynar paint colored to match the original window paint color, assumed by the architect to be black. (This is uncertain; see below.) Narrow-profile decorative, over-surface muntins will closely simulate the existing authentic glazing divisions. Authentic, glass-dividing muntins will have slightly wider profiles than existing muntins. Operable sash will have slightly wider profiles than existing operable sash. The overall detailed window division pattern, disposition of operable sash, tilting sash operation and mullion placement will closely approximate the existing.

Results to be obtained from three aluminum window manufacturers and one steel window manufacturer were comparatively presented. The architect presented that aluminum systems accommodate insulated glass with narrower muntin profiles than steel systems do, allowing them to better match the appearance of the existing single glazed steel windows. The architect also presented that aluminum windows perform better thermally than steel windows with insulated glass. The best-matching product among the three presented aluminum window manufacturers was proposed for use in the project.

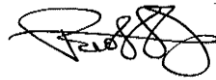
The Board recommends that serious consideration be given to the proposed aluminum window solution, and commends the architect's methodical approach.

It should be noted that the Board was not presented a physical window sample for review. The Board notes that a steel solution, while more expensive, might have been ideal if a system were found that closely matched existing profiles. The Board's recommendation is contingent on use of new glass which approximates the color and transparency of the existing, and on verification through chromachronology of the original frame color, which should be matched. This color is described as green by Lewis Mumford, in one of his "Sky Line" pieces, dated November 21, 1931: "The contrast between the long, continuous red brick bands and the green-framed windows, with sapphire reflections or depths, is as sound a use of color as one can see about the city."

Sincerely,



Corey Johnson
Chair



Pamela Wolff
Chair, Landmarks Committee

cc: Alan Gaynor + Company, P.C., Architects and Designers
NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn