

**From the CB#9 Parks and Landmarks Committee meeting of 12/13/04:**

**Resolution re: DPR project to rebuild the stairs from Riverside Drive to the  
119<sup>th</sup> St. Tennis Courts:**

**Whereas** the stairs connecting the Riverside Park entrance at Riverside Drive and 120<sup>th</sup> St. to the tennis courts below is seriously eroded and in need of rehabilitation to allow safe pedestrian use, and

**Whereas** DPR has found that it is financially able to rehabilitate the stairs through requirements contract funding, and

**Whereas** Margaret Bracken, landscape architect for Riverside Park, has made a full presentation to the Parks and Landmarks Committee on November 8, 2004, and

**Whereas** such rehabilitation will encourage the safety factor of increased pedestrian use,

**Be it resolved** that CB#9 approves this DPR project.

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**From the Parks and Landmarks Committee meeting of Dec. 13, 2004:**

Robert Tierney, Chair  
NYC Landmarks Preservation Committee  
Municipal Building, Ninth floor north  
1 Centre Street  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Tierney:

At its General Board meeting of November 11, 2002, Community Board #9 passed the following resolution by a vote of 29 - 0 - 3 - 1:

Whereas the initial planning for the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in 1887 called for the construction of a building "worthy of a great city," and, influenced by the American Cathedral movement, purchased a site both set apart and lifted above the city's center, and

Whereas the Cathedral Close bounded by Morningside Drive, Cathedral Parkway (110<sup>th</sup> St.), Amsterdam Avenue, and W. 113<sup>th</sup> St. now boasts, alongside the immense and still unfinished Cathedral Church, the distinguished Synod House, Diocesan House, Cathedral House, Deanery, and Cathedral School, all built between 1912-14, which together form a landscape site reminiscent of a walled medieval village,

Whereas the Close also boasts the remaining central portion of the site's first building, now the oldest standing structure in Morningside Heights, the Leake and Watts Orphan Asylum built in 1843 and distinguished by a striking Temple front facing south to the growing City, where services were held during the first years of construction of the Cathedral Church,

Be it resolved that CB#9 urges the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the entire Cathedral Close (bounded by Morningside Drive, Cathedral Parkway, Amsterdam Avenue, W. 113<sup>th</sup> St.) as a landmark and in this way sustain the Commission's oversight and guarantee of public hearing on any development which might be proposed for this significant site, now in perfect harmony with itself and serving all of New York City as a magnificent common ground, of international renown, for worship, meditation, and celebration.

Today, as the Cathedral leadership continues to explore development of the Cathedral Close, we again urgently call upon the Landmarks Preservation Commission "to designate the entire Cathedral Close ... and in this way sustain the Commission's oversight and guarantee of public hearing on any development which might be proposed for this significant site."