



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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BURT LAZARIN
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

May 7th, 2018

Hon. Bill de Blasio
Mayor, City of New York
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Re: Selection of New Landmarks Preservation Commission Chair

Dear Mayor De Blasio:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) urges you to take advantage of Meenakshi Srinivasan stepping down as chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to return "Preservation" to its central role in the commission's public mission by appointing a well-qualified chair with strong preservation credentials.


The Landmarks Preservation Commission must balance the rights of property owners against the interests of the city and local communities in preserving their heritage. We believe that the commission under the outgoing chair inappropriately favored owners and developers at the expense of legitimate preservation interests.

As have others, Community District 4 suffered irreversible damage and losses during the tenure of the current chair. These include violations by the owners of the High Line Hotel forgiven by LPC to the benefit of their commercial interests, and the effective demolition of 404 West 20th Street, the oldest house in Chelsea. Both of these actions were approved over the informed objections of CB4, the community at large and our elected officials. The latter decision was especially egregious and was based in part on accepting the argument made by the owner's architect that the house was structurally unsafe despite findings to the contrary by both LPC and Department of Buildings staff.

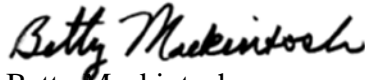
Your appointee should be well-qualified with credentials as a preservationist; a strong leader willing and able to achieve the necessary balance between the interests of applicants and communities; able to resolve potential conflicts of interest on the commission; and be dedicated to the commission's public mission of preservation.

We urge you to consider your options carefully and make an appropriate selection that will benefit the city.

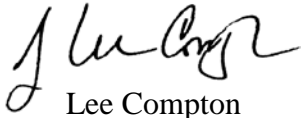
Sincerely,



Burt Lizarin
Chair
MCB4



Betty Mackintosh
Co-Chair
Chelsea Land Use Committee



Lee Compton
Co-Chair
Chelsea Land Use Committee



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

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