CITY OF NEW YORK



MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

424 West West 33 Street, Suite #580 New York, NY 10001 tel: 212-736-4536 www.nyc.gov/mcb4

JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS Chair

JESSE R. BODINE District Manager

April 11, 2023

Sarah Carroll, Chair Landmarks Preservation Commission Municipal Building, 9thFloor One Centre Street New York, NY 10007

Re: LPC Application to Install Planters on sidewalk at 675 Avenue of the Americas in the Ladies Mile Historic District

Dear Chair Carroll:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4), at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 4th, 2023, voted, by a vote of 35 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining and 0 present but not eligible, voted to recommend to the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the addition of sidewalk planters at 675 Avenue of the Americas, located in the Historic Ladies Mile District.

This is the second time the applicant has presented to The Chelsea Land Use Committee (CLU). Though the applicant reduced the number of proposed planters from five to four and reduced the height of the planters from unknown to a height of six feet, CLU again found that the proposed planters are not consistent with the historical design of the building, nor are they being proposed with any consideration to furthering the elements of the historic district. (See enclosed letter from October 2022.) Additionally, material selection and size are determined by DOT and not in consideration of the historic nature of the area. Moreover, the addition of planters, if approved, will contribute to the further overcrowding of the sidewalk, hinder vendor business, and present a hazard as pedestrian views of the bike lane and other oncoming traffic are obscured by the six-foot height of the planters.

Therefore, on the recommendation of CLU, Community Board Four recommends the denial of this application.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey LeFrancois

Chair

Manhattan

Community Board 4

Jessica Chai

Co-Chair

Chelsea Land Use

Committee

Kerty Keenan

Co-Chair

Chelsea Land Use

Committee

cc: Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President

Hon. Erik Bottcher, City Council

Owners and Representatives of 675 Avenues of the Americas