



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JOHN WEIS
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District Manager

April 6, 2011

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

Re: 413-437 West 14th Street

Dear Commissioner Tierney:

Manhattan Community Board 4 is writing in support of the application for alterations to ground floor openings at 413-437 West 14th Street in the Gansevoort Market Historic District.

Like most of the buildings in the Historic District this long, handsome building on the northside of the block between Ninth and Tenth Avenues has endured many changes, including varied extensions and the installation and removal of the sidewalk canopies that so many years were the signature feature of the Gansevoort Market area. These changes have left a long sequence of ground-floor entrances of varying types and purposes and corresponding to a wide variety of past, present, and possible uses. These uses have included: not only the more standard types of storefront doorways but also entrances to other ground-floor spaces, to halls, staircases, to elevators, and storage spaces, historically even refrigerated ones. Functionally, the most feasible access to many of these spaces is presently from corridors in the rear of the building, sometimes at the second level.

The purpose of the present application is to facilitate access to many of these spaces, especially those with the greatest limitations on their entryways, in a uniform design approach appropriate to this section of Gansevoort Market Historic District. These entryways are largely located within the westernmost bays of the building. Where a current opening cannot feasibly be converted to a more traditional one, a special

treatment consisting of a shallow opening located just behind the building line and partially concealed behind metal panels will enable creating workable access from the 14th Street sidewalk for both traditional and new uses. These entrances will maintain the visual unity of the building and reflect the important role metal features play in the character of the historic district.

We congratulate the architect on this ingenious solution and urge its adoption.

Sincerely,



John Weiss
Chair
Manhattan Community
Board 4

Edward S. Kirkland
Co-Chair
Landmarks Committee

John D. Lamb
Co-Chair
Landmarks Committee

CC: applicant