



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**JOHN WEIS**  
Chair

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

May 4, 2011

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

**Re: 433 West 20<sup>th</sup> Street**

Dear Chair Tierney:

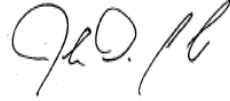
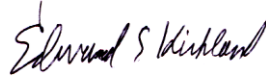
Manhattan Community Board 4 is writing about the application to install a fence around the building 433 West 20th Street on the close of the General Theological Seminary and numbered 2-3-4 Chelsea Square in the close. The Board supports the application as presented while suggesting one minor change and expressing a few related concerns.

The proposed fence, which will enclose and define the site of the building, originally built as faculty housing but now owned by the Brodsky Organization and planned to become private housing, is designed to set off the site from the main portion of the close, which will remain Seminary property. The design follows closely that of existing fence enclosing the exterior stairs and entrances of the building and is fully appropriate. We suggest, however, that installation of a small gate in the same style, preferably near the northeast corner of the enclosed space, would enable residents of the building to take fuller advantage of the privilege of access to the close without impinging on its historic character or risking inappropriate and risky informal crossings of the fence.

The Board notes that other work nearby is to be reviewed at staff level. We recognize that exterior restoration and interior adaptation for residential use of the somewhat neglected West Building will be required, and we urge special care in performing and reviewing this work. The West Building is important not only for

its association with Clement Clark Moore but also as a distinctive example of early gothic Revival design in America.

Sincerely,



John Weis  
*Chair*  
Manhattan  
Community Board 4

Edward S. Kirkland  
Co-Chair  
Landmarks  
Committee

John D. Lamb  
Co-Chair  
Landmarks Committee

CC: applicant