



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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WALTER MANKOFF
Chair

ANTHONY M. BORELLI
District Manager

March 16, 2005

Hon. Meenakshe Srinivasan, Chair
Board of Standards and Appeals
40 Rector St.
New York, NY 10007

Re: BSA No. 162-93-BZ, Special Permit at 128 Eighth Ave.

Dear Ms. Srinivasan,

After a presentation at the Chelsea Preservation and Planning Committee meeting on February 15, 2005, and a duly noticed public hearing preceding the regular Board meeting on March 2, 2005, Manhattan Community Board No. 4 voted, 33 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, that it had no objection to the legalization of the minor modifications made to the ground floor layout involving a 2% increase in floor area, or to an extension of the special permit for a physical culture establishment occupying the modified space on the ground floor and continuing in the occupation of the existing space at the basement level.

The establishment has been generally popular and has not been the subject of any complaints to the Community Board office. It is clearly a legitimate and successful physical culture establishment. The board supports its continuance.

The fact that the change in the ground floor went unnoticed and is now being accepted without difficulties reinforces the Board's repeated position that it sees no reason for the existence of such an elaborate approval procedure for what has become a normal and widespread type of business. It is a burden on all concerned, and distracts all involved, including your Board, from actual useful work. We appeal to you, Madam Chair, as a new chair selected in the hope of returning higher standards to the Board of Standards and Appeals, to take an initiative in reforming this process. Success would not only mean eliminating a time-wasting procedure from government, it would also eliminate one element in the constant accusation that government is overloaded with unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles.

Sincerely,

Walter Mankoff
Chair

J. Lee Compton
Co-Chair
Chelsea Preservation & Planning Committee

Edward S. Kirkland
Co-Chair
Chelsea Preservation & Planning Committee

Cc: applicant