



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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J. LEE COMPTON
Chair

June 8, 2006

Hon. Robert Tierney, Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
Seven Centre Street, Ninth Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: West Chelsea Landmarks

Dear Chair Tierney:

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 wishes to reconfirm its support of the recommendations it has previously made for designation of a West Chelsea Manufacturing Historic District and a number of individual landmarks in western Chelsea. These resources deserve preservation because of their architectural and historic quality, and are further immediately threatened by the redevelopment overtaking the whole area that has accompanied the restoration of the High Line and the rezoning adopted to make that restoration possible.

Indeed, one of the individual buildings we singled out, the Hess Building at 502-504 West 30th Street, has already been demolished. A modestly contributing building at 520-528 West 27th Street on the edge of the proposed Historic District has also been demolished, and new construction is already underway on the site. Alterations are frequent in the area.

The occasion for this letter is the recent submission to the Landmarks Preservation Commission of a detailed report containing additional research on historic resources in the area prepared by Anthony Robins, formerly of the Commission staff, on behalf of the Society for the Architecture of the City. It is generally supportive of our previous recommendations in the area. It focuses on a Historic District very similar to the Board's earlier recommendations, on a selection of individual buildings nearby that clearly deserve protection that is based on the list made by the Board, and on the threatened character of the charming 500 block of West 29th Street.

The Board wishes to express its gratitude to the Society of the Architecture of the City for sponsoring this study, which was submitted as a contribution to preparation of the report of the Commission on possible designation of a historic district and individual landmarks in West Chelsea. As you know, this report is required by the end of this month by the Points of Agreement on the West Chelsea Rezoning. As the signatories of the formal Request for Evaluation of these resources we are looking forward to this report

We hope that the report of the Commission will be broadly favorable, and will be acted upon in time to protect the major historic resources that still survive in western Chelsea from the time that New York was the premier manufacturing city of America, if not the world. These buildings

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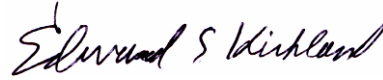
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are valuable in themselves, contribute to the ambience of the High Line, and form a major resource for the Chelsea gallery district. They must not be lost.

Sincerely,



J. Lee Compton
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



Edward S. Kirkland
Chair
Landmarks Taskforce

cc: Society for the Architecture of the City
Historic Districts Council
Municipal Arts Society
New York Landmarks Conservancy
Victorian Society in America
Local elected officials