



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JOHN WEIS
Chair

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

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

Re: 436 West 20th Street, Chelsea Historic District Extension

Dear Chair Tierney:

Because of the time constraint of the Commission's public hearing on 436 West 20th Street on November 24 the Executive Committee of Manhattan Community Board 4 adopted the following letter, subject to ratification by the full board at its next meeting on December 2 of this year.

Based on the recommendation of the Landmarks Committee, to which the applicant for the building at 436 West 20th Street in the Chelsea Historic District Extension made an elaborate presentation at its meeting on November 17, Community Board 4 Manhattan is glad to support in most respects the proposed restoration and alterations to the transitional Greek Revival rowhouse at this address.

The Board welcomes and supports as appropriate the removal of the fire escape and the general restoration and painting of the façade of the building, which has undergone few changes from the time of its construction as an elegant house facing the Seminary block of the Chelsea Historic District. It has no objection to the alterations on the back of the roof of the building because these will make minimal changes to protected features and will not be visible from the public way.

The Board does, however, have some concerns about the extent of the proposed gilding of certain features of the building façade and fence as not being fully consistent with the period of the building's construction and the history and relatively simple character of the Chelsea Historic District Extension. It requests the Commission to examine carefully the proposed gilding in view of the history of the building type and the immediate surroundings of the building in Chelsea.

Sincerely,

John Weiss
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4

Edward S. Kirkland
Co-Chair
Landmarks Committee

John D. Lamb
Co-Chair
Landmarks Committee