



Honorable Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York City, New York 10007

Dear Chair Srinivasan and Commissioners,

As the deadline approaches for public input on proposals to address the Commission's backlog of properties lost in time, West End Preservation Society (WEPS) would like to reiterate our initial response to the Commission.

We believe these sites can be interspersed back into the current Commission's agenda, in a timely manner. But they should not be cut from the LPC calendar and issued No Action letters. At best that will result in the same situation the Commission now finds itself, with all properties re-applying within the same time period. At worst, the city will lose wonderful buildings that have waited this long only to be cut down without their day in the sun and their right to be voted on by this Agency.

Moving forward, new timely procedures for designation are essential for the future of NYC preservation, but will not fix this particular problem. WEPS is supporting the proposal put forth by Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and Historic Districts Council for a timely manner of dealing with and dispatching these properties.

To summarize their proposal:

- Items on the calendar for 5+ years should be brought to a Public Hearing with public testimony, with 60 days notice;
- Public notice must include address, block, lot, community district and prior date(s) of public hearings at minimum; where possible, the LPC's official statement of significance, record or public support or opposition from original hearings;
- Items for consideration should be grouped geographically - preferably by Community District - with a minimum of 2 hearings held for Brooklyn, Manhattan, Staten Island and Queens;
- Public Hearings for these items can occur during regularly scheduled Public Hearings; After the Public Hearing, at the following session, the LPC should vote on the record to a) designate an item; b) keep an item on the calendar for one year for more study and a decision; c) not designate after hearing public testimony and LPC staff presentation or d) issue a "no action" letter.

Thank you for considering our comments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josette Amato".

Josette Amato
Executive Director