



THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
CITY HALL
NEW YORK, NY 10007

MEMORANDUM

To: All Council Members & Interested Parties

Subject: **Committee Hearing – May 23, 2014**

Date: May 19, 2014

The Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections will meet on Friday, May 23, 2014 at 10:30 am in the 16th floor Committee Room at 250 Broadway, New York, NY 10007, to consider the following matter:

Advice and Consent

- **Preconsidered M**, Communication from the Mayor submitting the name of Meenakshi Srinivasan, a resident of Manhattan, for appointment as a member of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, pursuant to §§ 31 and 3020 of the *New York City Charter*. Should Ms. Srinivasan receive the advice and consent of the Council, she will be subsequently designated as Chair and serve for the remainder of a three-year term that expires on June 28, 2016.

The candidate's résumé is annexed to this memorandum for your information.

Hon. Brad Lander, Chairperson
Committee on Rules, Privileges, and
Elections

Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker
New York City Council

MEENAKSHI SRINIVASAN

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NEW YORK CITY BOARD OF STANDARDS AND APPEALS

Chair/ Commissioner, 2004 – Present

Responsibilities

- Chair of five-member, mayoral-appointed board with a charter mandate to decide on zoning variance and special permit applications and appeals to determinations by the City's Buildings and Fire departments.
- Oversee 20-person office and establish priorities and policies to ensure the thorough and efficient processing of over 400 applications annually.
- Preside over the Board's weekly executive sessions and public hearings.
- Guide commissioners on zoning interpretation, land use, legal, and environmental issues.
- Supervise all Board decisions and resolutions drafted by counsel and adopted by the Board.
- Supervise executive director, counsel and senior staff on application review, and independent research.

Significant Achievements

- Created and implemented the agency's strategic plan to establish professionalism, efficiency, and transparency at the Board.
- Directed senior staff in the successful overhaul of the agency's official Rules of Practice and Procedure.
- Oversaw the successful adoption of the Board's fee structure legislation.
- Oversaw the revision to all procedures for the filing of applications at the Board, including land use analyses, financial feasibility methods, and environmental review.
- Instituted critical changes to the pre- and post-application review.
- Directed senior staff on the overhaul of the Board's technology including website material and interphase, database and electronic (paperless) filings and review.

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING, MANHATTAN OFFICE

Deputy Director, 2000-2004

- Assisted the Manhattan Office director in the management and administration of 25-person office.
- Directed zoning, land use and urban development policy on major Manhattan planning initiatives including a comprehensive zoning plan for Hudson Yards and Lower Manhattan; contextual rezoning of East and Central Harlem, and Ladies Mile; new regulations for sidewalk cafes; and urban design enhancements for Grand Central Terminal and Malcolm X Boulevard.
- Lead agency team in creating zoning proposal for the Special Hudson Yards District.
- Directed, managed and coordinated planning and development projects that require discretionary approvals by the City Planning Commission, including Memorial Sloan Kettering expansion, Museum of African Art, Columbia University and Lincoln Center Expansion and Con Edison development sites.
- Supervised senior staff on major projects, team management and deployment of staff.
- Advised the Chair, City Planning Commission and City Hall on major policy issues.
- Represented the agency in discussions and negotiations with applicants, community/civic and business groups, other agencies and elected officials.

Team Leader/ Supervisor, 1995-2000

- Organized and coordinated projects for Midtown, Upper East and Upper West Side neighborhoods.
- Supervised planners on private applications and significant planning projects and studies including Museum of Modern Art expansion, study of midblock towers and public spaces regulations, and several privately sponsored new zonings and special permits.
- Assisted director in preparing briefing material for the chair and mayor on major planning projects and community district land use issues.

Project Director/ Manager, 1990-2000

- Directed and coordinated several of the Department's highest priority planning initiatives and land use applications including Theater Subdistrict Rezoning, Avenue of the Americas rezoning, Riverside South/ Penn Yards development, and Capital Cities/ABC development.
- Conducted zoning, land use and urban design analyses of private applications requiring discretionary review.
- Coordinated Manhattan Office participation on City-wide initiatives including Adult Entertainment Study and zoning proposals to facilitate housing.
- Drafted zoning text for the Theater District's air-rights transfer mechanism and reviewed revisions to the zoning resolution.
- Presented projects to the City Planning Commission, community and business groups, and elected officials.
- Drafted final agency reports for adoption by the City Planning Commission.

KISE FRANKS AND STRAW ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS, Philadelphia

Architectural and Urban Designer, 1988-1990

- Developed planning and urban design concepts for public spaces for Penn's Landing and Society Hill in Philadelphia.
- Coordinated community participation, and produced newsletters and other public outreach documents for Maryland and Delaware Department of Transportation.
- Collaborated with community groups on design decisions and prepared design and construction documents for Dover Master Plan.

KT RAVINDRAN ARCHITECT, New Delhi

Architect, 1985-1986

- Responsible for design development of interior office layouts for Grindlays Bank, New Delhi and Simla, and Orient Longman Publishers, New Delhi
- Responsible for design development for Chinmayananda Cultural Center, New Delhi, and residential homes.

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Graduate School of Fine Arts, 1990

Master of City Planning

Master of Architecture (Urban Design Program)

Research Assistant, Louis Kahn Archives

School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi India, 1985

Bachelor of Architecture (5 -year professional degree)

AWARDS AND AFILIATIONS

- Honoree, Society of Indo-American Engineers and Architects, 2012
- Honoree, New York Society of Architects, 2008
- Barney Rabinow Award for Outstanding Young Planners, Department of City Planning, 1992
- Trustee, Board of Trustees, Children's Book Trust, India, 2009 - present

ADDITIONAL

- Participant, New York Law School Breakfast Lecture Series –“New Challenges at the BSA”, 2007
- Department of City Planning Representative – France Study Tour, French American Foundation, 2002
- Guest Critic, Columbia University Con Edison Urban Design Studio, Fall 2000
- Guest Lecturer, American Institute of Geographers Conference, NYC, 2001
- Participant, Theater District Mobile Workshop, American Planning Association Conference NYC, 2000
- Participant, Rome/NYC Conference and Paris/NYC Conference, Hunter College, 1999
- Participant Paris/NYC Preparation Conference City University of New York, 1999