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December 18, 2007

Robert B. Tierney
Chairman
Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Center Street
New York, New York 10007

Re: 101 Avenue A

Dear Mr. Tierney:

I write to support the individual landmarking of 101 Avenue A. I read with fascination the detailed history and careful review of the architectural significance of this property prepared by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHP) and sent to you in a letter dated October 30, 2007. I commend GVSHP for its work in researching this local treasure and enthusiastically endorse the recommendation that this building be landmarked.

Like several other buildings that Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) is currently considering for designation, 101 Avenue A reflects the rich history of this community over the last 125 years. It is first and foremost a particularly handsome tenement building. Its ground floor commercial and three residential floors above exemplify the building style of the turn of the last century on the Lower East Side and retain the connection to the working class immigrant experience.

It is particularly meaningful that this one structure has continuously provided a gathering space to residents of this community. At the beginning of the 20th century, it provided a refuge to mourners of the Slocum Disaster and workers organizing the American Federation of Labor. Many decades later, when this accepting neighborhood became the home of so many avant-garde artists and gay/lesbian/transgender individuals seeking a non-judgmental environment to express themselves – 101 Avenue A again provided a haven.

I strongly urge the LPC to calendar and finally designate 101 Avenue A, as a distinctive example of Lower East Side history and architecture. I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Rosie Mendez
Councilwoman





THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

SCOTT M. STRINGER
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

January 2, 2008

Robert Tierney
Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

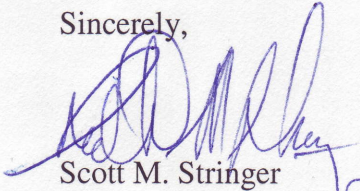
Dear Chair Tierney:

I am writing to express my support for designation of 101 Avenue A. The building's storied history as a social club, saloon and live music venue provided a context for its role in New York City's labor movement, punk rock scene and LGBT activism. The building's architecturally significant design further supports why it should be designated a New York City landmark. This 1876 structure uses the elements of classic Lower East Side tenement building to showcase ornate window lintels and a decorative fire escape.

Many aspects of the history of the Lower East Side make this neighborhood beloved by both residents and visitors. 101 Avenue A tells both the story of the neighborhood's role as a home to immigrants and its position at the vanguard and social and artistic movements. These stories need to be preserved in order to ensure that unique neighborhoods like the Lower East Side and East Village can continue to be unique and vibrant neighborhoods. From the late nineteenth century until the mid-1930's, the building's first floor was home to a hall where the area's many German immigrants ate, organized, held labor related discussions, celebrated and mourned. In the 1980's the Pyramid Club began operation in the same location. This club was a key part of the 1980's East Village scene and a hub for drag queens and downtown performers.

101 Avenue A is worthy of preservation both for its aesthetic charms and its important role in the East Village's vibrant culture. I urge LPC to designate 101 Avenue A.

Sincerely,


Scott M. Stringer
Manhattan Borough President





THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

DEBORAH J. GLICK
Assemblymember 66th District
New York County

CHAIR
Higher Education Committee

COMMITTEES
Environmental Conservation
Rules
Ways & Means

December 21, 2007

Robert Tierney, Chair
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Designation of 101 Avenue A

Dear Chair Tierney:


I am writing to urge the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to consider designating 101 Avenue A, aka The Pyramid Club, an individual New York City landmark. I am pleased at the recent inclusion of a number of East Village sites on LPC's recent agendas and believe these designations are evermore critical as recent rezoning proposals threaten to leave the protection of many neighborhood blocks tenuous. 101 Avenue A artfully exemplifies the zenith of the neighborhood's progressive energies, both through its striking pre-law Neo-Grec architecture, and its spirited past and present. This building should be designated accordingly.

In addition to this structure's notable architectural merits, which have been well touted by historians and preservationists, this space intuitively channels the creativity of the neighborhood in a manner perhaps unparalleled by any other East Village site. In its earliest incarnation, the building was a German-American social and banquet hall and although this usage was certainly not uncommon in the neighborhood, this particular site is one of few that retains a similar present-day use. As "Leppig's," the hall solidified its role as a bastion of charitable assistance, and labor and union ferment. Benefits held in the hall ranged from a memorial service for the more than 1,000 who perished in the 1904 General Slocum ferry disaster, to a Thanksgiving frankfurter eating contest to support the needy in 1923.

It is perhaps the site's recent history that best exemplifies its ties to the indigenous culture of the East Village. From the 1960's onward, 101 Avenue A cultivated the organic art forms emergent in the East Village and solidified the building as an epicenter of confluent imaginative energies that quickly came to characterize the neighborhood. In 1979, "The Pyramid Club," a name apparently attributable to the pyramid design in the building's tiling, nourished the budding performance art scene and gave voice to politically and socially conscious drag performers such as Lady Bunny and Rupaul. The "Wigstock" festival, now of worldwide notoriety, was apparently borne from a night out at the club, when drag performers wandered into nearby Tompkins Square Park to continue celebrating into the wee hours of the morning. Of all the East Village performance venues that emerged during this time, only the Pyramid Club survives. Today, the club continues its role as a place where patrons are free to be whomever they chose.

The East Village has experienced an unprecedented amount of growth due to the frenzied real-estate speculation of recent years, and like all intense periods of urban change, not all of it has complemented the neighborhood's altruistic, progressive and performative roots. Although the City may not always fully recognize the value of its "cultural capital," it is imperative that LPC act to protect sites such as the Pyramid Club in order to encourage the continuation of our City's tradition of engendering avant-garde art forms and progressive political and social ideologies. I appreciate your continued consideration of designations throughout the East Village and urge you to name 101 Avenue A, a place of immigrant organizing and performance art, and the preeminent queen of the drag scene, an individual New York City landmark.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Deborah J. Glick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

Deborah J. Glick
Assemblymember