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Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

July 13, 2016

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

Dear Chair Srinivasan,

I write in support of the Manhattan Community Board 2 (CB2) resolution and the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Presentation's (GVSHP) recommendations to the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to reject the proposed development at 11-19 Jane Street (LPC #18-5336). This application proposes to demolish a 1-story garage structure, originally constructed in 1921, and replace it with a 98 foot 6-story residential building, with a 20 foot rooftop mechanical structure, in the Greenwich Village Historic District.

The Greenwich Village Historic District was designated in 1969 in an effort to preserve the distinct architectural quality and small scale that give the area its special ambience. Although the existing garage is a non-contributing building, it is within scale of the predominately low-rise character of Jane Street, and therefore its size does not detract but blends into the special quaintness for which the historic district was designated. The proposed building design is out-of-context as it does not relate to buildings on the street which are identified in the designation report as capturing the old New York look and character; instead, the proposed design and scale for 11-19 Jane Street relate to buildings outside of the district.

In summary, the current proposed building fails to comply in scale, massing and style with the Greenwich Village Historic District and will drastically alter the 19th century character of Jane Street. I ask the Commission to reject the current proposal and request the applicant modify the design to better reflect the scale, character and architectural quality that dignify and enhance this historic district. I ask that if LPC recommends that the applicant modify their application, that the revised proposal is re-presented to CB2 and an additional open comment LPC hearing be held to evaluate its merits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gale A. Brewer".

Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President