



**Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation**

252 East 11th Street
New York, New York 10005

(212) 475-9585
fax: (212) 475-9582
www.gvshp.org

Executive Director
Andrew Berman

President of the Board
Arthur Levin

Vice-Presidents
Leslie Mason
Kate Bostock Shefferman

Secretary/Treasurer
Katherine Schoonover

Trustees
Mary Ann Arisman
John Bacon
Penelope Bareau
Tom Birchard
Elizabeth Ely
Cassie Glover
Justine Leguizamo
Ruth McCoy
Andrew S. Paul
Cynthia Pemney
Robert Rogers
Allan G. Sperling
Judith Stonehill
Fred Wistow
Linda Yowell
F. Anthony Zunino III

Advisors
Kent Barwick
Joan K. Davidson
Christopher Forbes
Margaret Halsey Gardiner
Elizabeth Gilmore
Carol Greitzer
Tony Hiss
Martin Hutner
James Stewart Polshek
Elinor Ratner
Henry Hope Reed
Martica Sawin Fitch
Anne-Marie Sumner
Calvin Trillin
Jean-Claude van Itallie
George Vellonakis
Vicki Weiner
Anthony C. Wood

April 29, 2013

Hon. Michael Bloomberg
Mayor, City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Bike Share Rack Installations in Greenwich Village

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

I write to express the concerns of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHP) regarding the installation of bike racks for the new bicycle share program in Greenwich Village. GVSHP is the largest membership organization in Greenwich Village, the East Village, and NoHo.

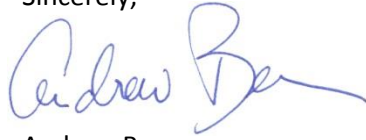
First, I must note that as a historic preservation organization, GVSHP is generally very supportive of making our streets friendly and accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists, and to encourage the use of low-impact forms of transportation such as bicycles. We believe such measures are vital to the health of a densely built up city like New York, and especially to neighborhoods like Greenwich Village. We thus hope the new bike share program will be a success, and believe that Greenwich Village is an appropriate location for such a program.

That said, we have concerns about the sudden proliferation of so many of these stations, their size, and the lack of a full public review through the Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding their placement within designated historic districts. These stations, which include signage and, in some cases, a few dozen bicycle holders, will clearly have a significant visual impact as well. It would seem not only appropriate but necessary for these installations to undergo a full public review through the Landmarks Preservation Commission's Certificate of Appropriateness process regarding their design and siting.

We are confident that such stations can and should be approved in our neighborhoods. However, a public review through the Landmarks Preservation Commission would help ensure that they are appropriate in terms of location, size, and design. It would also help ensure that, while facilitating bicycle travel around New York City, the program does not also negatively impact the visual character of some of our city's oldest and most historically significant neighborhoods.

Thus we strongly urge you to subject the siting and design of these bike share stations to full, public, landmarks review when located in historic districts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Berman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew Berman
Executive Director

Cc: Department of Transportation Commissioner Jeannette Sadik-Khan
Landmarks Preservation Commission Chair Robert Tierney
City Council Speaker Christine Quinn
Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer
State Senator Brad Hoylman
State Assemblymember Deborah Glick
Community Board #2, Manhattan