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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER:

CONSUMER PROTECTION
INVESTIGATIONS &
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COMMITTEES:

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CAPITAL INVESTMENT
JUDICIARY
LIBRARIES

June 5, 2014

Mayor Bill de Blasio
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

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

Dear Mayor de Blasio and Chair Tierney:

I am writing in reference to the attached letter recently sent to your offices by Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation Executive Director Andrew Berman. The 27th State Senate District, which I represent, contains a high concentration of current and prospective historic districts and landmarks, and historic preservation is of great concern to many of my constituents. Consequently, I ask that you consider the recommendations contained in Mr. Berman's letter aimed at improving community engagement with the LPC.

These recommendations would go a long way toward empowering my constituents to participate in the landmarking process, and would enable them to assist the city in uncovering and investigating violations. Furthermore, a more robust engagement with residents could help the LPC in its work by introducing hyper-local institutional knowledge into its considerations.

Thank you both for considering my request, and for the work that you do for the City of New York. Should you have any questions or to follow up, please contact me at 212-633-8052.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brad Hoylman'.

Brad Hoylman
New York State Senator
27th District

cc: Andrew Berman, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation





May 2, 2014

Mayor Bill de Blasio
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Landmarks Preservation
Commission
252 East 10th Street
New York, New York 10003

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

Re: Improved LPC Public Communications

(212) 312-3151
fax: (212) 312-3152
www.lpc.nyc.gov

Dear Mayor de Blasio and Chair Tierney,

Andrew Berman
Vice President
100 West 10th Street
New York, NY 10011
Tel: 212-312-3151
Kate Roschok, Staff Director

I write to suggest some ways in which, based upon the experience of this organization and the constituency it serves, the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) could improve its communications with the public. Currently, it can be quite difficult for the public to participate in the public hearing/meeting process, or to attain information about Certificate of Appropriateness applications and the status of violations complaints. I believe this prevents more effective communication between the Commission and the public, and reduces the public's ability to participate in and understand the process.

Oliver G. Spiering
Vice President

However, these are problems which seemingly can be easily corrected in the following ways:

Mary Ann Aronson
Penelope Berman
Tom Burchard
Elizabeth Deeds
Cassie Gilson
Austyn Leguizamo
Beth McGee
Andrew S. Paul
Cynthia Pennix
Robert Rogers
Katherine Schindler
Marilyn Sobel
Judith Stonehill
Evel Wiscow
Linda Yowell
L. Anthony Zimino III

- (1) **Update the LPC's already existing Twitter feed on public hearing/meeting days to report when each item is presented.** This would allow members of the public to know if the LPC is ahead of or behind schedule in hearing applications, especially if they are most likely only there to testify on one or a few applications. The public does not need a Twitter account to see the feed.
- (2) **Have a page on the LPC website to track Certificate of Appropriateness applications.** This could include posting PDFs of the applications for the public to see, videos of the hearings/meetings, and any modifications requested by the commissioners at public hearings/meetings. Currently, only the decision ("approved with modifications" etc.) is listed on the updated agenda shortly after the hearing/meeting.
- (3) **Have a page on the LPC website to track reported violations.** This could include providing an estimated time frame of an LPC site visit to inspect the potential violation, and the LPC's determination once the visit is made (such as *not in violation* or *warning letter issued* with the date by which the owner needs to respond). If a violation is found, the page could provide the owner's response (such as *submitting an application to try to legalize the violation at a public hearing* or *agreeing to remove elements in violation*).

Kent Kariwick
Joan K. Davidson
Christopher Torres
Margaret Halsey Gardiner
Elizabeth Gilmore
Carol Grouten
Tom Hiss
Marian Hinton
James Stewart Potshock
Elina Rafter
Henry Hope Reed
Marta Savenko Fuchs
Anne Marie Summer
Cathy Tullie
Jean Claude van Dulle
George Vellomakis
Vicki Weiner
Anthony C. Wood

I hope the LPC will seriously consider implementing these suggestions, which I believe would increase the effectiveness of the Commission and its ability to serve and engage the public meaningfully.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman
Executive Director