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*Established in 1949 to preserve the
cultural and architectural heritage
of Greenwich Village.

December 12, 2002

Hon. Sherida Paulsen
Chair, Landmarks Preservation Commission
Hon. Robert Tierney
Member, Landmarks Preservation Commission
Once Centre Street, 9th floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Paulsen and Commissioner Tierney:

We are writing to thank you for last night's community meeting regarding the possible designation of a Gansevoort Market Historic District. We believe the meeting was extremely successful, especially as evidenced by the fact that, in spite of the pouring rain, over 100 people showed up, by far the majority of whom came to show support for designation. The meeting was tremendously informative and a critical piece of an important dialogue, and we thank the Commission for making it happen.

As was stated last night, we are of course anxious to see this designation move forward as quickly as possible, given the mounting development pressure this district faces. We also urge that the Commission move forward on as broadly inclusive a district as is possible at this time. We recognize that the city's planning for the future of the High Line, the preservation of which we strongly support, impacts upon what the Commission may do here, and that other factors may impact the inclusion of the High Line corridor in this district.

However, we strongly urge that the Commission look at ways to include as many designation-worthy buildings in the district as possible. Inclusion of the old Manhattan Refrigeration Company block (now the West Coast Apartments), the significance of which LPC Director of Research Mary Beth Betts so eloquently outlined at last night's community meeting, would, because of its location south of the High Line end, allow a district to reach around the High Line and include such buildings as the old Gansevoort Pumphouse (555 West Street) and other buildings in the district's western section. We hope that this method, and the possibility of individual building designations and/or inclusion of additional sections, as was done in Murray Hill, could be utilized to ensure that all buildings in this district worthy of designation which could be included now are included. As has been stated before, of course our top priority is to see the district move forward as quickly as possible, and, ultimately, we would not want to do anything to hinder that process. At the same time, however, none of us wants the integrity of any part of the district to be further compromised while this process moves forward, if this can at all possibly be avoided.

Thus we look forward to hearing from you about the calendaring of a Gansevoort district as soon as possible, and about the boundaries for the proposed district. As always, if there is anything we can do to help facilitate this process, please don't hesitate to let us know. Also, we would like to reiterate our extreme gratitude to you for all of the work, time, and support you have put into this effort in bringing it to this point. Thank you again for doing such a tremendous job.

Sincerely,

Thomas K. Duane
State Senator

Christine Quinn
City Council Member

Andrew Berman
Executive Director