



**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

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January 23, 2013

Hon. Christine C. Quinn  
Speaker, New York City Council  
224 West 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1206  
New York, NY 10001

Dear Speaker Quinn,

In light of the City Planning Commission's approval of the Hudson Square Rezoning today, we urge you in the strongest of terms not to approve the rezoning unless the City also agrees to landmark the adjacent proposed South Village Historic District, which will be so heavily impacted by the proposed rezoning.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission pledged to consider the entire proposed South Village Historic District for landmark four years ago, but has thus far failed to do so. It is particularly important that they do so now, given the extreme and increasing development pressure this neighborhood is under, and the number of buildings in this historic neighborhood which have been or are slated to be demolished and replaced with out-of-scale new development.

The City's own environmental analysis of the proposed Hudson Square rezoning admits that the proposed South Village Historic District is "landmark-eligible." It also however admits that if the Hudson Square rezoning is approved without landmark designation, the proposed South Village Historic District will suffer a "significant adverse impact."

Community Board #2 in its resolution regarding the proposed Hudson Square rezoning also called for the rezoning not to be approved unless the proposed South Village Historic District is landmarked, given the profound impact it would have upon that neighborhood.

Designation of the proposed South Village Historic District would be very easy for the City, given the broad level of local support designation has, and given that the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation has provided them with research and documentation of the history of every building in the proposed district -- time-consuming work the City must typically do itself before it can designate. In the past, the City has linked rezonings with landmarking of adjacent historic areas to ensure that those areas are not negatively impacted, such as in West Chelsea and Prospect Heights, and we believe they should do so here as well.

As the Speaker of the City Council, and with the Hudson Square rezoning application before you, you are in a unique position to compel the City to finally keep its word and move ahead with landmarking South Village. As someone who has in the past supported landmark designation for the South Village, we hope that you will use your considerable leverage to get the City to act. But if the City refuses to landmark the South Village, we urge you not to approve the Hudson Square rezoning, given the

profound impact it would have in accelerating the destruction of this fragile, historic area.

Sincerely,



Andrew Berman  
Executive Director  
Greenwich Village Society  
for Historic Preservation



Richard Blodgett  
President  
Charlton Street  
Block Association



Carl Rosenstein  
Broome Street Block Association



Micki McGee      Kenny Ross  
South Village Neighborhood Association



Silvia Beam, President  
VanDam Street Block Association



Katy Bordonaro      Zack Winestine  
Co-Chairs, Greenwich Village  
Community Task Force