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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

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September 29, 2014

Hon. Meenakshi Srinivasan
Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Srinivasan:

I urge the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) take steps recommended by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHIP) to protect prospective landmarks prior to their designation. These include discontinuing the practice of notifying owners prior to calendaring that their properties may be considered for designation, and ensuring that when demolition or alteration permits are filed for calendared properties, designation decisions are made within the 40-day window when those permits may not be acted upon.

Last year, in my State Senate district, the owners of a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Mercedes Benz dealership at 430 Park Avenue filed for demolition permits shortly after LPC notified them that it was considering designating the showroom as an interior landmark and they destroyed it before it could be calendared for designation. In a recent report, GVSHIP identified a number of other properties that were substantially altered or demolished in similar circumstances or after calendaring but prior to their designation as a landmark or their inclusion in a historic district.

Notifying owners that their properties may be considered for designation prior to their being calendared leaves these prospective landmarks highly vulnerable to demolition or defacement. Rather, notifying owners at the time of calendaring would give owners ample opportunity to weigh in on whether their property should or should not be designated while providing an important measure of protection for the property in question.



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I understand that citywide administrative policy set the 40-day period during which demolition or alteration permits on calendared properties must be held. Certainly a longer hold period would be preferable but until and unless that policy changes, I implore LPC to make designation decisions within that window when an owner or developer seeks to demolish or alter a calendared building.

Thank you for considering my requests. 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". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brad Hoylman
New York State Senator
27th District

cc: ✓Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation
Historic Districts Council
The New York Landmarks Conservancy
Municipal Art Society
Manhattan Community Board 2
Manhattan Community Board 3