



**Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation**

232 East 11th Street
New York, New York 10003

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

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Anthony C. Wood

April 27, 2007

Hon. Christine Quinn
Speaker, New York City Council
224 West 30th St, Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001

Re: Increasing the Landmarks Preservation Commission's Budget

Dear Council Speaker Quinn,

As someone who clearly knows the critical importance of the work of the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), I urge you to support the proposed increase in the agency's budget of \$1 million for Fiscal Year 2008. Efforts to preserve the character of Greenwich Village, the East Village, and NoHo cannot be nearly as effective without a well-funded and well-staffed LPC, which this increased funding would help ensure.

The LPC's job of identifying, protecting, and regulating the architectural, cultural, and historic heritage of New York City is an enormous one, and one which is done with comparatively modest resources. The LPC's current resources seem particularly small when compared not only to other agencies but also to the LPC's own budget in 1991 (in real dollars), when there was significantly less work for the agency and significantly greater resources with which to do it. An increase in the LPC's budget by \$1 million is a miniscule amount when considering the City's overall budget, but one which would make a tremendous difference not only to this agency but to the City as a whole.

Last year the City Council increased the LPC's budget by \$250,000. In the intervening months, a noticeable and commensurate increase in survey and designation activity has been seen at the Commission, much to the pleasure of the public. Nonetheless, the number of permit applications to the LPC will likely only increase, especially with new designations, and therefore the need for greater resources will also only increase. In addition, even with the LPC's slightly larger budget, frustration still exists with the agency's speed and ability to designate buildings and districts, issue permits, and investigate violations. Put simply, while the additional \$250,000 did make a discernible difference in the amount of work the LPC was able to accomplish, it did not make up for the dramatic decrease in the agency's budget over the past 15 years.

GVSHP joins many of our colleagues in requesting an additional \$1 million for the LPC's budget, which would bring the agency roughly back to the same funding levels as in 1991. Even though the Commission's workload has increased significantly since then, this would begin to return the LPC to the footing it needs to fully carry out its mandate of protecting our city's heritage.

On Wednesday, May 9th, GVSHP and several of our colleagues will be at City Hall to urge the Council for this additional and crucial funding for the LPC. We look forward to meeting with you or your staff to discuss this further and hope to see you on the steps of City Hall for our press conference at noon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Berman", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Andrew Berman
Executive Director



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April 27, 2007

Hon. Alan Gerson
New York City Council
51 Chambers Street, Suit 429
New York, NY 10001

Re: Increasing the Landmarks Preservation Commission's Budget

Dear Council Member Gerson,

As someone who clearly knows the critical importance of the work of the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), I urge you to support the proposed increase in the agency's budget of \$1 million for Fiscal Year 2008. Efforts to preserve the character of Greenwich Village, the East Village, and NoHo cannot be nearly as effective without a well-funded and well-staffed LPC, which this increased funding would help ensure.

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On Wednesday, May 9th, GVSHP and several of our colleagues will be at City Hall to urge the Council for this additional and crucial funding for the LPC. Margaret Hughes of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum has set up a meeting at 10 am that morning with your office and other constituent preservation groups, including GVSHP. We look forward to discussing the LPC's budget with you or your staff at that meeting, and we hope to see you on the steps of City Hall for our press conference at noon.

Sincerely,

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Andrew Berman
Executive Director



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April 27, 2007

Hon. Rosie Mendez
New York City Council
237 First Ave, Suite 504
New York, NY 10003

Re: Increasing the Landmarks Preservation Commission's Budget

Dear Council Member Mendez,

As someone who clearly knows the critical importance of the work of the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), I urge you to support the proposed increase in the agency's budget of \$1 million for Fiscal Year 2008. Efforts to preserve the character of Greenwich Village, the East Village, and NoHo cannot be nearly as effective without a well-funded and well-staffed LPC, which this increased funding would help ensure.

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Sincerely,

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Andrew Berman
Executive Director