

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

January 15, 2013

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE N.Y.C. LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE BEDFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT IN BROOKLYN

Good morning Chair Tierney and Commissioners. I am Andrea Goldwyn, speaking on behalf of The New York Landmarks Conservancy.

The Conservancy strongly supports the designation of the Bedford Historic District. We are pleased to join with neighbors, public officials, preservationists, and local advocates in doing so.

Like the neighboring Stuyvesant Heights District, and the larger Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, the proposed District is an extraordinary collection of architectural treasures with attractive streetscapes and a vivid sense of place. The groups of houses, apartments, and institutional buildings that comprise the District feature a dazzling array of the styles from the late 19th and early 20th century. While there have been alterations, the rows retain their low scale, original materials, and attractive details. The sense of place is heightened by the strong sense of community including many families that have owned their homes for generations.

The Conservancy is pleased to have that community as partners in preservation. Over the years, we have received hundreds of inquiries from residents of the larger Bed Stuy area, gone on dozens of site visits and spoken at many community meetings. We've completed multiple projects funded by low-interest loans to homeowners and grants to religious properties; in fact, a very nice one is on the cover of the Historic Properties Fund brochure. This designation will only spur more applications and more improvements.

We thank the Commission for bringing this designation to a hearing, and look forward to speaking on the other Bed Stuy study areas, including Stuyvesant East and Stuyvesant North, as well as several others that our staff submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office which found them eligible for listing on the State and National Registers. Thank you for the opportunity to present the Conservancy's views.