

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

January 17, 2012

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE EAST 10TH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

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

The Conservancy strongly supports landmark designation of the East 10th Street Historic District. This block contains a rich collection of 19th century row houses which maintain much of their historic fabric. While there have been some alterations, the buildings have the same scale, height, and volume as when built.

Beyond architectural merit, the East Village derives a special sense of place from the vast sweep of history that has taken place on its streets. From early days as a base for merchants, to decades of welcoming immigrant communities, to serving as the home for the social movements and artistic communities so prominent in more recent years, this block truly tells the story of New York.

We would like to remind building owners of the advantages of landmarking. The City's own Independent Budget Office has issued a study stating that historic district designation stabilizes and improves property values. Just as designation has benefited other parts of Lower Manhattan, landmarking in the East Village will enhance the neighborhood, ensuring that any alterations are guided by the Landmarks Law.

There is no doubt that the East Village will continue to grow and evolve as it has for over 200 years; with landmark designation, new generations of residents, business owners, artists, and immigrants will be able to rediscover and use this community's rich architectural heritage.

We would also urge the Commission to act quickly and bring the proposed East Village/Lower East Side Historic District to a public hearing, and both districts to a vote. The distinctive historic fabric of these communities is at risk, and each day's delay allows potential for inappropriate alteration or even demolition.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Conservancy's views.