

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

August 12, 2014

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES & ELECTIONS RE: THE PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF ADI
SHAMIR BARON AND JOHN GUSTAFSSON TO SERVE ON THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION
COMMISSION**

Good morning, Chair Lander and Council Members.

I am Andrea Goldwyn, speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The Conservancy is a private, independent, not-for-profit organization, founded in 1973. Our mission is to preserve and protect historic resources throughout New York.

Both Adi Shamir Baron and John Gustafsson have distinguished backgrounds. They have experience with preservation and an interest in New York's built environment. We appreciate their willingness to serve on the Landmarks Preservation Commission, and look forward to working with them should the Council act favorably upon these candidacies.

New York's Landmarks Commission is the largest and the strongest in the country. We trust that these candidates will continue to fulfill the agency's mandate of protecting individual landmarks and historic districts. Districts, in particular, continue to be very popular with residents, evidenced by the long list of neighborhoods waiting for designation. These designations stabilize property values, establish connections with New York's history, and ratify communities that retain current residents and attract newcomers. We hope that the Commissioners will reject recent criticisms that there have been too many designations. For nearly 50 years, preservation has been an important land use tool, creating local jobs, encouraging tourism, and maintaining the city's unique identity.

We also would like to thank Margery Perlmutter for her service to the Landmarks Commission. We are certain that she will bring the same level of thoughtfulness and dedication that have distinguished her tenure to the Board of Standards and Appeals.

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