

**THE NEW YORK  
LANDMARKS  
CONSERVANCY**

October 28, 2008

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

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

The Conservancy has visited the proposed district and reviewed the documentation prepared by the Commission. We strongly support the designation before you today and are pleased to join with homeowners, neighbors, public officials, and preservationists in doing so.

The Conservancy knows Prospect Heights first-hand. Our Historic Properties Fund had made loans for the restoration of brownstones at 560 Carlton Avenue, 587 Carlton Avenue, and 111 St. Marks Avenue, and made dozens of site visits over the years.

This District is a very large area featuring a diverse array of fine row houses as well as apartments and institutions designed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century by some of Brooklyn's premier architects. These include stunning blocks of Italianate, neo-Grec, and Second Empire brownstones that embody the residential growth of Brooklyn between Grand Army Plaza, Flatbush Avenue and Atlantic Avenue in those years. While there have certainly been some alterations to the buildings, they do not detract from the overall appearance of a cohesive and architecturally significant district.

We were pleased to see that the proposed district is substantially larger than that on the State and National Registers of Historic Places; extending it on Bergen Street, Flatbush Avenue, Park Place, and the entire section east of Vanderbilt. With its many blocks of intact buildings and distinguished architecture, this area meets the "sense of place" test which is fundamental to the designation of an historic district. It also clearly merits the protection of the Landmarks Law and the review and guidance of any proposed changes to the fabric.

Protection of Prospect Heights is especially important given the nearby redevelopment of the nearby Atlantic Yards site, and we are grateful to see it. We also urge the Commission to move quickly on the other 50 or so potential historic districts that are waiting to be heard.

In conclusion, the Conservancy supports the designation of the Prospect Heights Historic District as a representation of New York and Brooklyn's nineteenth century residential heritage. We look forward to providing its residents assistance from our Technical Services Center and Historic Properties Fund. Thank you for the opportunity to present The Landmarks Conservancy's views.