

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

October 25, 2011

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE N.Y.C. LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE RIVERSIDE -- WEST END HISTORIC DISTRICT EXTENSION II

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

Nearly 25 years ago the Conservancy testified in favor of the Riverside West End Historic District, recognizing the exceptional group of buildings along the District's core, Riverside Drive. We are very pleased to be here today, to support designation of the district extension, anchored by the grand streetscape of West End Avenue.

Like the original district, the extension is composed of masonry buildings representing several phases of residential development, designed by prominent architects of 19th and 20th centuries. West End Avenue is lined with apartment buildings in limestone and brick while the side streets are a stunning array of brownstone and limestone row houses. The styles range from Romanesque and Renaissance revival, to Queen Anne and Beaux-Arts, and many are enlivened with decorative ornament, rustication, sculptural stone details, molded brick, and terra cotta. Across the District the asymmetrical massing and varied roof lines of the row houses form an attractive compliment to the stately symmetry of the classical apartment buildings, creating an intact and cohesive sense of place.

Designation of the three West End extension districts heard this year will rightly celebrate one of New York's great boulevards. The Conservancy is pleased to join with neighbors, public officials, and preservationists in support of this designation. In particular we are grateful to the West End Preservation Society for initiating the effort to expand the District and to the Landmarks Commission for acting with speed. We look forward to working with building owners in all of the new districts who are stewards of the tremendous architectural heritage which distinguishes the Upper West Side.

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