

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

December 16, 2008

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE
N.Y.C. LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE
PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE RIDGEWOOD NORTH HISTORIC DISTRICT IN
QUEENS**

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

The Conservancy strongly supports the Historic District designation before you today. We are pleased to join with homeowners, neighbors, public officials, and preservationists in doing so.

The district is composed of several blocks of tenement buildings that form an unusually intact and cohesive area recalling the early 20th century residential development of Queens. The architect and builder took a pedestrian form, the low-rise brick tenement, and through clever use of materials such as the yellow and orange brick and the cast stone, on each building, and in repetitions along the block, elevated it to the level of a landmark. In addition, the buildings were innovative in program, creating model tenements with modern facilities for urban dwellers pushed out of Manhattan and Brooklyn by rising population growth and lured to Queens by transportation and infrastructure improvements.

Ridgewood North clearly merits the protection of the Landmarks Law and the review and guidance of any proposed changes to the fabric. The Conservancy hopes that designation of this District will be followed by additional designations in Queens. We are pleased to support designation of this District, and looks 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.