

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

June 25, 2013

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE N.Y.C. LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE SOUTH VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

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

The Conservancy strongly supports designation of the entire South Village Historic District. We are pleased to join with neighbors, public officials, preservationists, and local advocates in doing so.

The South Village is one of New York City's great historic neighborhoods. It is composed of buildings in an array of styles that reflect the City's 19th and early 20th century development, from Federal and Greek Revival town houses to tenements with fully expressed Queen Anne, Romanesque Revival, and Renaissance Revival decorative elements. Many retain original scale, materials and details.

These buildings represent the District's history, which evolved from a fashionable residential neighborhood, to a community of immigrants, and a refuge for artists. It is steeped in a rich heritage of cultural history, and has a vibrant sense of place, which deserves the protection of the Landmarks Law.

Much of this history, and many of these buildings, is so similar to that of the Greenwich Village Historic District, that most people would be surprised to learn that the South Village is not designated. It is time to correct that oversight and for the Commission to promptly designate the entire South Village Historic District.

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