

November 25, 2014

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO TAMMANY HALL, 100-102 EAST 17TH STREET, MANHATTAN, AN INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK

Good morning Chairman Srinivasan and Commissioners. I am speaking on behalf of The New York Landmarks Conservancy. Over the past two years we were pleased to speak here at the Commission and at the City Council in support of the designation of Tammany Hall as an individual landmark. This handsome building has both architectural and cultural significance, and is an anchor of its neighborhood. The 1929 neo-Georgian style edifice emphasizes balance and symmetry, and like other civic buildings of its era was built to recall the founding days of the Republic.

We believe that the proposed rooftop addition is inappropriate for what it takes away and for what it brings to the building. It would necessitate removal of intact historic fabric. The installation of a 30-foot glass dome on this corner building facing Union Square would be highly visible from many vantage points. The existing slate roof is original and part of the architectural composition of the building. The proposed dome would treat the landmark as its base and really become the center of attention. While there have been some appropriate examples presented of glass canopies and domes on other buildings, they have served to enhance rather than overwhelming the landmarks on which they have been added. If the owners wish to pursue a rooftop addition, we hope the Commission will ask them to return with one that is smaller, and more deferential to this individual landmark.

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