

September 16, 2008

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE
N.Y.C. LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE
PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE ALICE AND AGATE COURTS HISTORIC
DISTRICT IN BROOKLYN**

Good morning, 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 two small cul-de-sacs that comprise the district form an unusually intact, cohesive, and picturesque area that recalls Brooklyn's late 19th century development. Several blocks south of Fulton Street, and abutting Atlantic Avenue and the Long Island Rail Road, these streets provide a residential respite from the commercial activity which surrounds them. With rows of intact buildings and charming Queen Anne style details, 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.

The Conservancy hopes that designation of this District, which lies between Stuyvesant Heights and Crown Heights North, will be followed by additional designations in this section of Brooklyn, which has such a rich architectural heritage. 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.