

November 29, 2016

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF 185 MONTAGUE STREET AS AN INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK

Good morning Chair Srinivasan and Commissioners. I am Alex Herrera, speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The Conservancy is pleased to support designation of the 185 Montague Street, the former National Title Guaranty Building, as an Individual Landmark.

This is the one of the finest Art Deco Buildings in Brooklyn. Built in 1930, it captures the essence of that fascinating period with its floral and mechanical carvings as well as the zig-zag massing of the base and the top. Built as the National Title Guaranty Building, it is part of a distinguished threesome of commercial buildings that have long been admired by anyone with an eye for architecture or design. The threesome I am referring to of course are, in addition to this building, the Brooklyn Trust Company Building on the corner of Montague and Clinton Streets, designated an individual landmark some time ago, and the adjacent People's Trust Company, which is also being heard today. The ensemble creates one of the great block fronts in Brooklyn and the Conservancy is very happy indeed that all three buildings will now be designated and thus protected.

The Landmarks Conservancy has worked closely with the Brooklyn Heights Association to advance the designation of 185 Montague Street and is grateful to the Commission for making it happen.

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