

September 20, 2018

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS REGARDING CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF SARAH CARROLL AS CHAIR OF THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Good morning Chair Koslowitz and Councilmembers. I am Ann-Isabel Friedman, speaking on behalf of The New York Landmarks Conservancy. The Conservancy is a private, not-for-profit organization, founded in 1973. Our mission is to preserve and protect historic resources throughout New York via advocacy, and technical and financial assistance.

The Conservancy is pleased to support the appointment of Sarah Carroll as Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. We have always had a strong relationship with the agency, and have known and worked with Ms. Carroll for over two decades, as she rose through the ranks of the Preservation Department before becoming Executive Director. Like many other groups, we have encouraged the Administration to appoint a Chair with a background in preservation. In selecting Sarah Carroll, they have certainly fulfilled that request.

On a personal note, I worked with Sarah at LPC the late 1990's, where she was a model of friendly efficiency. More recently, from the vantage point of a homeowner, I got to witness Sarah at work in my community, clearly and simply explaining the regulatory impact of the expansion of my own Brooklyn historic district. Sarah is a native New Yorker, having lived in at least three historic districts in two boroughs, and this shows.

In 2012, when Ms. Carroll was the LPC's Director of Preservation, she received a Sloan Public Service Award, which recognizes outstanding civil servants. At the time, she was lauded for "her keen ability to help architects, developers, contractors and property owners navigate the complicated rules and regulations that govern New York City landmarks. Although applications to the Commission are often contentious, Carroll's unusual and admirable calm, sensitivity and impartiality have made her a singularly effective negotiator, helping broker compromises to which all sides can agree."

Her tenure as Executive Director has burnished that record. And we are sure it will continue when she is Chair.

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