

October 29, 2013

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE N.Y.C. LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE PARK SLOPE HISTORIC DISTRICT EXTENSION II**

Good afternoon, Chair Tierney and Commissioners. I am Colleen Heemeyer, speaking on behalf of the Landmarks Conservancy.

“An historic district should be possessed of such a distinctive quality that, on entering it from any side, one should become aware of a distinct, separate neighborhood. Park Slope is just such an area.” This quote from the 1973 Park Slope Historic District designation report applies equally to the areas under discussion today.

For 40 years, buildings in the Park Slope Historic District, mostly low-scale historic architecture with residential, commercial, non-profit, and religious uses, have had the protection of the Landmarks Law. The buildings in this extension share much the same history and scale as those streetscapes, in styles typical of the period, from neo-Grec, Italianate, and Queen Anne, to Romanesque and Renaissance Revival. They represent the same story of development in Brooklyn from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and they deserve the same protection. We are also pleased to see several historic religious properties, which serve as anchors of the community, within the extension, including the 1899 St. Augustine’s Roman Catholic Church.

As the 1973 reports states, “The entire District continues to attract those who appreciate its prime location adjoining Prospect Park, its substantial, well-built houses and its relative tranquility.” This is certainly true of the buildings under consideration today.

We are pleased to join with neighbors, public officials, preservationists, and the Park Slope Civic Council in support of this designation. Thank you for the opportunity to present The Landmarks Conservancy’s views.