



**Testimony of State Senator Brad Hoylman, Assembly Member
Deborah Glick and City Council Member Corey Johnson before the
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
Regarding the Proposed Building at
130 Seventh Avenue South
January 21, 2014**

We are State Senator Brad Hoylman, Assembly Member Deborah Glick, and Council Member Corey Johnson and we represent the Greenwich Village Historic District in which 130 Seventh Avenue South is located. We thank the Commission for giving us the opportunity to testify today.

In designating the Greenwich Village Historic District in 1969, the Landmarks Preservation Commission report said: “The Village means something real, tangible, and livable to its inhabitants, while to the casual visitor, it represents a chance to look into a world of hidden charm, mystery, and ever-changing vistas.” It is that very air of suspense so ably aided by the meandering tree-lined streets that we urge the Commission to give careful attention to when considering 130 7th Avenue South.

The proposal before the Commission would add a 75’ building to a site where a non-descript one-story building has stood for decades. If permitted, we believe a building of such poor contextual design would detrimentally alter the character of this distinctive district. Most egregiously the view corridors on Seventh Avenue would be marred by a structure of glass, steel, and vertically emphasized brick piers.

In 1969, the LPC used the word “exceptional” twice in its Purpose of Designation. It did so in deference to the integrity of the architecture and singular character of the neighborhood. We believe the proposed building at 130 Seventh Avenue South is in no way exceptional and is unworthy of the LPC’s standards for design, materials, and construction in an historic district.

We appreciate the effort to evolve the design since the first iteration of the building was put forth several months ago. But this latest iteration still clings to elements ill-suited to the district. Importantly, the Landmarks Committee of Community Board 2 has agreed with this assessment, passing a resolution that recommends the rejection of the proposed design, given that it will dramatically alter the sense of place at the site, which lies in the heart of the historic district. Regardless of whether or not the individual design elements have been deemed "appropriate," the aggregate of their parts in a building like this will drastically alter the historic district in which it stands.

We ask the Commission to reject this proposal. Thank you again for giving us the opportunity to comment.