

Statement

732 & 734 West End Avenue Set for Demolition

June 8, 2009 — I commend the ongoing efforts of the neighboring residents of the 732-734 West End Ave buildings, which are set for demolition. I have written the Landmarks Preservation Commission over the course of this fight and have advocated to have the buildings in question preserved. Unfortunately, the owners are unwilling to compromise and are intent on going forward with the demolition. At this time my priority is to ensure the demolition is carried out safely and responsibly. My office along with Community Board 7 is scheduling a construction task force that will be charged with managing the community's concerns surrounding this type of demolition as well as the environmental impact that it will have on the neighborhood.

I commend the West End Preservation Society (WEPS) for its tireless efforts in recognizing the historical and cultural importance of this section of my district. The demolition of these two buildings only furthers the cause for recognizing this area as a historical district. WEPS has reached out to community leaders, neighbors, and experts, building their network into a movement of concerned, intelligent, and responsible citizens. Beyond preservation, landmarking our most historic buildings is a way to protect vulnerable populations living in these communities, including seniors and families. Currently, my office is working on legislation to further preserve these types of brownstones.

I support WEPS and the dedicated residents in their pursuit of preserving the quality of the Upper West Side community.

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