



Christopher Marte

紐約市市議員馬泰 Council Member, District 1

district1@council.nyc.gov
(212) 587-3159

65 East Broadway
New York, NY 10002

August 21, 2023

Sarah Carroll
Chair, Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor North
New York, NY 10271

Subject: Landmarking Consideration on Washington Street

Dear Chair Carroll,

I write to express my support for the efforts of the Friends of the Lower West Side and others to obtain a hearing at the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) for the preservation of 103, 105, and 109 Washington Street.

These buildings are the last remnants of a vibrant multicultural neighborhood that counted 27 nationalities in 1917. Of particular cultural significance was the presence of significant Syrian and Lebanese communities through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. However, the influx of high rise buildings beginning in 1904 and the construction of the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel entrance in the 1940s almost completely destroyed the neighborhood.

It is essential that we act now to protect what is left of this once thriving community, as redevelopment risks continue to threaten what remains. Only the facade of 103 Washington Street is currently landmarked, and that is not enough to ensure that the historical and cultural significance of Washington Street is preserved. I ask that you consider a hearing and potential landmarking of these three buildings.

Sincerely,

Christopher Marte
New York City Council Member