

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

SUB-COMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME  
USES

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November 10, 2010  
Start: 11:35am  
Recess: 12:05pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
BRAD LANDER  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Daniel J. Halloran  
Rosie Mendez  
Jumaane D. Williams  
James Sanders, Jr.

## A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Jenny Fernandez  
Director of Intergovernmental and Community Relations  
Landmarks Preservation Commission

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2 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Council Member  
3 Brad Lander and I'm pleased to call this meeting  
4 of the City Council's Land Use Sub-committee on  
5 Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses to  
6 order. I'm very happy to be joined today by  
7 Council Member Rosie Mendez. I appreciate her  
8 timeliness and her patience and also by Council  
9 Member Jumaane Williams and Dan Halloran and by  
10 our counsel, Christian Hilton. And we will begin  
11 today's hearing.

12 We have two items on, I believe.  
13 Moving very quick because they're both going to be  
14 presented to us by LPZ. We're going to hear about  
15 them and I don't anticipate lots of questions  
16 because the Council Member supports them and  
17 they're from Staten Island. And we're always  
18 thrilled with the LPZ brings us Staten Island  
19 items so thank you. Land Uses number 242 and 243,  
20 20115152 and 20115153, both in Council Member  
21 Rose's district. We invite Jenny Fernandez from  
22 the LPZ up to testify.

23 JENNY FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair  
24 Lander, members of the Landmarks sub-committee.  
25 My name is Jenny Fernandez, Director of

1  
2 Intergovernmental and Community Relations for the  
3 Landmarks Preservation Commission. I'm here today  
4 to testify on the Commission's designation of the  
5 Christ Church complex on Staten Island.

6 On August 11, 2009 the Landmarks  
7 Preservation Commission held a public hearing on  
8 the proposed designation as a landmark of the  
9 Christ Church complex. A total of seven  
10 witnesses, including City Council Member Kenneth  
11 Mitchell, Susan Fowler Chair of the Christ Church  
12 Plans and Equipment Committee, Bastry [phonetic]  
13 Member Paul Smith speaking on behalf of Director  
14 Charles Howell and representatives of the Historic  
15 Districts Council, the New York Landmarks  
16 Conversancy and the Preservation League of Staten  
17 Island testified in support of this designation.  
18 The representative of the Preservation League also  
19 appeared on behalf of the North Shore Waterfront  
20 Greenbelt Association, the Let's Brighten  
21 Restoration Society and the Four Boroughs  
22 Neighborhood Preservation Alliance.

23 On August 10, 2010 the Commission  
24 voted to designate the building a New York City  
25 individual landmark. Picturesquely sited on a

1  
2 wide expanse of lawn, the Christ Church complex  
3 with its church, Parish House, rectory and  
4 cloisters is now standing in rare example of turn  
5 of the 20th century neo-gothic ecclesiastical  
6 design on Staten Island. Christ Church was  
7 established in 1849 and the present church built  
8 in 1903 through 1904 and Parish House, built 1906  
9 through 07, replaced earlier buildings on the  
10 site.

11 Their size and substantial  
12 construction are indicative of the importance of  
13 Christ Church's congregation, which in the early  
14 1900s was regarded as the largest and most  
15 fashionable in the borough. Designed by the  
16 Philadelphia architect, Isaac Pursow, a noted  
17 specialist in church and institutional design.  
18 This is apparently his only known works in New  
19 York City.

20 The church, Parish House and  
21 connecting cloister are modeled on English country  
22 parish architecture of the late Gothic period.  
23 The church is also distinguished by its unusually  
24 rich stained and opalescent glass windows  
25 including works by Tiffany Studios, J & R, Lamb

1  
2 Studios, Lacolla DaSinto and the Gorum Company.

3 Over it's 160 year history, Christ Church played a  
4 prominent role in its community and continues to  
5 serve parishioners in the Episcopalian tradition.

6 The Commission urges you to affirm  
7 this designation.

8 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you. As  
9 tempted as I am to ask about the meaning of  
10 opalescent, indifferent to my colleagues several  
11 of whom have to be out of here quickly, I'm going  
12 to ask to move to the second item. On that one,  
13 since we have such wonderful testimony here, give  
14 us the abbreviated version would be most grateful.  
15 That's on the 51st Calvary Bridge, Brigade Armor,  
16 excuse me.

17 ): Thank you. For the record, my  
18 name is Jenny Fernandez Director of  
19 Intergovernmental and Community Relations for the  
20 Landmarks Preservation Commission. I'm here today  
21 to testify on the Commission's designation of the  
22 headquarters Troop 51st Calvary Brigade Armory on  
23 Staten Island. On August 11, 2009 the Landmarks  
24 Preservation Commission held a hearing on the  
25 proposed designation as a landmark of the

1  
2 headquarters Troop 51st Calvary Brigade Armory.  
3 12 people spoke in favor of the designation,  
4 including Council Member Kenneth Mitchell,  
5 representatives of various preservation groups and  
6 community organizations.

7           Seven of those speaking in favor of  
8 the designation testified during other Staten  
9 Island items hearing on that day. There was no  
10 testimony in opposition. On August 10, 2010 the  
11 Commission voted to designate the building a New  
12 York City individual landmark.

13           Located on the large grassy campus  
14 in Staten Island's Castleton Corners neighborhood,  
15 the headquarters troop armory is one of its  
16 signature buildings and unique contributor to the  
17 city's rich military history. The last casillated  
18 [phonetic] armory constructed in New York City and  
19 one of the last in the state, the headquarters  
20 troop armory is an unusual example of the style in  
21 New York City today. It remains a National Guard  
22 installation, retaining its historic functions as  
23 the home of the 42nd Infantry Rainbow Division.

24           The Commission urges you to affirm  
25 this designation.

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you very  
3 much for that speed testimony. We will look at  
4 the more detail. We have these from you and we  
5 appreciate the detailed testimony for the record.  
6 Do my colleagues have any questions for Ms.  
7 Fernandez?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: How about  
9 ten? No, I'm kidding.

10 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: We don't have  
11 anyone signed up to testify. Do we have anyone  
12 here to testify on these matters? Seeing none,  
13 we'll close the public hearing. Thank you very  
14 much and we will move to vote on both of these  
15 items. These are votes again on Land Use numbers  
16 242 and 243, 20115152 and 20115153, both in  
17 Council Member Rose's district and the Chair  
18 recommends a vote of aye.

19 CLERK: Chair Lander.

20 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Aye.

21 CLERK: Council Member Sanders.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.

23 CLERK: Council Member Mendez.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye and I'd  
25 like to just note that the church is just a

1  
2 beautiful church. I'm looking at all these  
3 pictures. Thank you.

4 CLERK: Council Member Williams.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank  
6 you, Jenny and I vote aye.

7 CLERK: Council Member Halloran.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: I'd just  
9 like to say how thrilled I am to see both a church  
10 and a military establishment getting designation.  
11 Aye.

12 CLERK: By a vote of five in the  
13 affirmative, none in the negative, no abstentions,  
14 LU 242 and LU 243 are approved and referred to the  
15 full Land Use Committee.

16 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: We'll leave  
17 the vote open for a couple of minutes, for ten  
18 minutes. Thank you. Thank you very much.  
19 Meeting adjourned, that's what it is. I knew  
20 there was something I was forgetting.

21 CLERK: final vote of the Sub-  
22 Committee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime  
23 Uses, November 10, 2010, five in the affirmative,  
24 none in the negative, no abstentions on LU 242 and  
25 LU 243. This meeting is adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Amber Gibson, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature  \_\_\_\_\_

Date November 29, 2010