

**TESTIMONY OF THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC  
SITING AND MARITIME USES ON THE DESIGNATION OF  
THE CROWN HEIGHTS NORTH III HISTORIC DISTRICT**

June 2, 2015

Good morning Council Members. I am Jenna Adams, the Director of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs at the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of the Crown Heights North III Historic District in Brooklyn.

On January 17, 2012, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation of the Crown Heights North III Historic District. The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Twelve people spoke in favor of designation, including representatives of former Council Member Albert Vann, former Council Member Letitia James, former Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, Community Board 8, the Crown Heights North Association, Historic Districts Council, and New York Landmarks Conservancy. There were no speakers opposed to designation of the proposed historic district.

This March, the Commission received a letter in support of designation from Council Member Robert Cornegy. I have submitted a copy of his support letter with our testimony. For reference, a majority of the Crown Heights North III Historic District is contained within Council Member Robert Cornegy's Council District, with a small portion included in Council Member Laurie Cumbo's Council District.

On March 25, 2015, the Landmarks Preservation Commission voted to designate the Crown Heights North III Historic District. On April 20, 2015, I presented to the Department City Planning of City Planning in advance of their April 22 public hearing where it was confirmed that the Historic District does not conflict with the Zoning Resolution.

The Crown Heights North III Historic District comprises of approximately 640 buildings. These buildings include single- and two-family row houses, flats buildings, and apartment houses primarily built from the 1870s to the 1930s. These buildings represent the wealth of architectural styles that flourished in Brooklyn during this period, including the Neo-Grec, Queen Anne, Romanesque Revival, Renaissance Revival, Beaux Arts, Colonial Revival, Arts and Crafts, and Art Deco styles. The district also includes one of Brooklyn's great houses of worship, the former Shaari Zedek Synagogue (Eisendrath & Horowitz, 1923-25) at the southeast corner of Kingston Avenue and Park Place, and the city's earliest, most extensive, and most stylistically diverse collection of "Kinko" houses, remarkable two-family duplex houses that enjoyed a brief period of popularity in Brooklyn from 1905 to about 1913. Also noteworthy are the inviting residential enclaves of Revere, Hampton, and Virginia Places, consisting of picturesque well-preserved row houses grouped along short midblock streets.

Notable residents of the district include famed author Richard Wright as well as Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman to serve in the United States Congress and to run as a major-party candidate for the Presidency.

Although the Crown Heights North III Historic District has experienced many changes over its history, it remains a remarkably well-preserved testament to the quality of Brooklyn's residential architecture at the turn of the 20th century, and is a worthy complement to the earlier designated Crown Heights North and Crown Heights North II Historic Districts.

Accordingly, the Landmarks Preservation Commission urges you to affirm the designation. Thank you.

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THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
**ROBERT E. CORNEGY, JR.**  
COUNCIL MEMBER, 36<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

**CHAIR**  
SMALL BUSINESS

**COMMITTEES**  
CIVIL SERVICE & LABOR  
FINANCE  
HEALTH  
HOUSING  
PUBLIC SAFETY

March 20, 2015

Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair  
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Srinivasan:

I am writing today to express my strong support for the proposed Crown Heights North III Historic District. The Crown Heights North Historic District contains some of Brooklyn's finest and most exquisitely detailed row houses, attached houses, freestanding residences, churches, flats buildings, and elevator apartment houses dating from the middle of the nineteenth century to the 1930s.

As you are aware, my predecessor Al Vann gave vigorous support to the residents of Crown Heights for this designation dating back to 2011. We are pleased to know the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission has scheduled the designation of Crown Heights North III for a very important vote on March 24, 2015.

As the Council Member for the 36<sup>th</sup> Council District, I represent a constituency who values the historic brownstone and limestone homes in which they own and reside. We proudly seek to preserve the architectural heritage of this neighborhood by adding the designation of Crown Heights North III to the other landmark areas including Crown Heights North I and Crown Heights North II, Brooklyn Children's Museum, Jewish Children's Museum and Weeksville.

We believe designating Crown Heights North III will add to the rich diversity of other landmarked properties throughout New York City and strongly urge the Commission to vote in favor of this designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Cornegy, Jr." with a stylized flourish.

Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.  
Council Member - 36th District - Brooklyn

cc:




The Honorable Eric Adams, Brooklyn Borough President  
The Honorable Al Vann, NYC Council Member

# Crown Heights North III Historic District



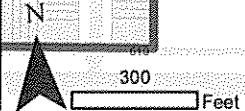
Crown Heights North III  
Historic District  
Borough of Brooklyn, NY  
Landmarks Preservation Commission

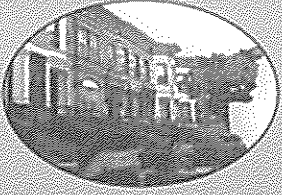
Calendared: June 28, 2011  
Public Hearing: January 17, 2012  
Designated: March 24, 2015

-  Boundary of Existing Districts
-  Boundary of Designated District
-  Tax Map Lots in Designated District



**NYC**  
Landmarks Preservation  
Commission





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# Crown Heights North Association, Inc.

Dedicated to Preserving the Architectural Jewels of Crown Heights North

June 2, 2015

Hon. David G. Greenfield, Chair  
Committee on Land Use  
NYC Council  
250 Broadway 17th Floor  
New York, NY 10007  
[DGGreenfield@council.nyc.gov](mailto:DGGreenfield@council.nyc.gov)

Re: LU 0231-2015 - Landmarks, Crown Heights North III Historic District,  
Brooklyn (20155451 HKK (N 150321 HKK))

Dear Committee Chairman Greenfield,

On behalf of the Crown Heights North Association (CHNA) I am writing to thank you for your sponsorship of the designation of Phase III of the Crown Heights North Historic District. We are heartened by the fact that the Council Committee is lending its weight to this proposal.

The architectural gems in our community chronicle significant chapters in the history of this city, and range from Bedford Corners to the Hunterfly Road houses of Weeksville. This history enriches our communal foundation, is epitomized in the unique artistry of the structures that have managed to survive the test of time, and encourages tourism.

Crown Heights North Phase III is worthy of historic district designation. We are grateful for this day, as we are confident that the Crown Heights North community will be honored with completion of the historic designation of Phase III. We are confident that the remaining phase of Crown Heights North will also receive timely historic designation, as it is equally deserving of having those gems saved for future generations.

Sincerely,

*Deborah Young*  
CHNA Board Chairperson and  
President

cc: Hon. Robert. Cornegy  
Hon. Laurie Cumbo

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 6-2-2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Deborah Young

Address: 986 Sterling Pl

I represent: Caring Heights North Ass.

Address: 986 Sterling Place

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Jenna Adams

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Landmarks Preservation Cmn

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms