

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITINGS

AND DISPOSITIONS 1

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC  
SITINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

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February 23, 2023  
Start: 10:12 a.m.  
Recess: 11:15 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - COMMITTEE ROOM, 14TH  
FLOOR

B E F O R E: Farah N. Louis, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Oswald Feliz  
Christopher Marte  
Sandy Nurse  
Sandra Ung  
Inna Vernikov  
Rita Joseph

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITINGS  
AND DISPOSITIONS 2

A P P E A R A N C E S

Kelly Murphy, Director of Real Estate Services at  
the School Construction Authority

Michael Martinez, Senior Manager of Real Estate  
Services at the School Construction Authority

Kate Lemos McHale, Director of Research at the  
Landmarks Preservation Commission

Sonia Guior, Director of Community and  
Intergovernmental Affairs at the Landmarks  
Preservation Commission

Amanda Davis, Project Manager of the New York  
City LGBT Historic Sites Project

Michael Lent, homeowner

Cheryl Sealey, homeowner

Jesse Miller, homeowner

Julie Miller, homeowner

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITINGS

AND DISPOSITIONS 3

1 SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITINGS AND  
DISPOSITIONS

4

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone  
3 check for the Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public  
4 Sitings and Disposition located on the 14th Floor  
5 Hearing Room, recorded by Nazly Paytuvi on February  
6 23, 2023.

7 Good morning and welcome to today's New  
8 York City Council hearing for the Subcommittee on  
9 Landmarks, Public Sitings and Dispositions.

10 If you wish to submit testimony, you may  
11 at [testimony@council.nyc.gov](mailto:testimony@council.nyc.gov).

12 At this time, please silent all  
13 electronic devices.

14 Chair, we are ready to begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: [GAVEL] Good morning.  
16 I'm Council Member Farah Louis, Chair of the  
17 Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Sitings and  
18 Disposition. I am joined today by my Colleagues,  
19 Council Members Feliz, Ung, Vernikov, and Joseph.

20 Before we begin with today's agenda, I  
21 will recognize the Subcommittee Counsel to explain  
22 today's hearing procedures.

23 COMMITTEE COUNSEL HUH: Thank you, Chair  
24 Louis. I am Arthur Huh, Counsel to the Subcommittee.

25

1  
2           This meeting is being held in a hybrid  
3 format. Members of the public who wish to testify may  
4 do so in person or remotely via Zoom.

5           Those wishing to testify remotely are  
6 asked to register online, and you may do so now by  
7 visiting [www.council.nyc.gov/landuse](http://www.council.nyc.gov/landuse) to sign up. If  
8 you have already registered but not yet signed into  
9 the Zoom, please do so now and remain signed in until  
10 after you have testified.

11           If you have written testimony you would  
12 like the Subcommittee to consider in addition to or  
13 instead of appearing before the Subcommittee, please  
14 send it via email to  
15 [landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov](mailto:landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov). Please indicate the  
16 LU number or project name in the subject line of your  
17 email.

18           In the event of any technical issues with  
19 today's meeting, we ask everyone for your continued  
20 patience as we work through those.

21           Chair Louis will now continue with  
22 today's agenda.

23           CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you. I will  
24 begin today's hearing meeting by opening two public  
25 hearings for applications submitted by the School

1  
2 Construction Authority pursuant to Section 1732 of  
3 the New York School Construction Authority Act for  
4 proposed site selections for school facilities. We'll  
5 first hear from SCA staff regarding the two sites and  
6 then we will take public testimony on both items.

7 I'll remind anyone wishing to testify  
8 remotely, if you have not already done so, you must  
9 register online and you may do that now by visiting  
10 the Council's website at [council.nyc.gov/landuse](http://council.nyc.gov/landuse).

11 We will Preconsidered Application number  
12 G 220027 SCQ, a proposed site selection for a new  
13 approximately 547-seat primary school facility  
14 located at 23-10 43rd Avenue in the Court Square Long  
15 Island City neighborhood of Queens in Council  
16 District represented by Council Member Won.

17 We will also hear Preconsidered  
18 Application number G 220028 SCQ, a proposed site  
19 selection for a new approximately 659-seat high  
20 school facility located at 13-20 124th Street in the  
21 College Point neighborhood, also in the borough of  
22 Queens, in the Council District represented by  
23 Council Member Paladino.

24 Presenting these items on behalf of the  
25 School Construction Authority will be Kelly Murphy.

1  
2 Counsel, would you please administer the  
3 affirmation?

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL HUH: Thank you, Chair.  
5 I'll note that we also have Michael Martinez of the  
6 School Construction Authority.

7 Miss Murphy and Mr. Martinez, would you  
8 please raise your right and state your name for the  
9 record?

10 KELLY MURPHY: Kelly Murphy.

11 MICHAEL MARTINEZ: Michael Martinez.

12 COMMITTEE COUNSEL HUH: Do you affirm to  
13 tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the  
14 truth in your testimony before the Subcommittee and  
15 in answer to all Council Member questions?

16 KELLY MURPHY: I do.

17 MICHAEL MARTINEZ: I do.

18 COMMITTEE COUNSEL HUH: Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: You may begin.

20 KELLY MURPHY: Good morning, Chair Louis  
21 and Council Members. As I said, my name is Kelly  
22 Murphy. I'm the Director of Real Estate Services at  
23 the School Construction Authority, and I'm joined by  
24 my Colleague, Michael Martinez, Senior Manager of  
25 Real Estate Services.

1  
2                   We are very happy to be here today to  
3 present two site selections for a proposed new  
4 primary school at 23-10 43rd Avenue in Long Island  
5 City and a proposed new high school at 13-20 124th  
6 Street in College Point.

7                   The School Construction Authority has  
8 undertaken the site selection process for a new  
9 approximately 547-seat primary school located at 43rd  
10 Avenue, Block 436, Lot 21 in the Borough of Queens.  
11 The site is approximately 21,156 square feet, about  
12 half an acre, and it was formerly utilized as a five-  
13 story office building. The site is located within  
14 Queens Community District number 2, Community School  
15 District number 30, and the Long Island Court Square  
16 neighborhood. Can we go to slide two?

17                   There we are. Here's an overview of the  
18 site. You can see the Queens Borough Bridge and the  
19 Sunnyside Yards to the south and to the east, and  
20 it's located in the heart of Court Square. Next  
21 slide.

22                   There's a tax map of the site shown. It's  
23 one tax lot 21 on block 436. Next slide.

24                   This is just a closer-in view of the  
25 site. You can see the actual building, and the site



1  
2 is bounded by 43rd Avenue to the north, 24th Street  
3 to the east, 23rd Street to the west, and there's  
4 currently a residential development to the south.

5 Next slide.

6 This is the official notice of filing.

7 The notice of filing for the site plan was published  
8 in AM New York in the City Record on November 28,  
9 2022, at which time Community Education Council  
10 number 30, Queens Community Board number 2, and the  
11 City Planning Commission were also notified. Queens  
12 Community Board number 2 held a public hearing on  
13 January 5, 2023, and they issued a letter of support  
14 on January 6, 2023. Community Education Council  
15 number 30 also held a public hearing on December 12,  
16 2022. All public comments received on the site were  
17 considered as part of the site selection process. The  
18 SCA affirms the site plan pursuant to Section 1731 of  
19 New York Public Authority's Law in accordance with  
20 Section 1732 of PAL that SCA submitted the proposed  
21 site plan to the Mayor and City Council by letter  
22 dated February 17, 2023. Next slide.

23 These next couple of slides are just some  
24 images of the building and the surrounding area so  
25 you can see the existing five-story building. The

1  
2 picture on the left shows the site looking southwest  
3 from the intersection of 43rd Avenue and 24th Street,  
4 and the one on the right shows the view looking  
5 southeast from the intersection of 43rd and 23rd  
6 Street. Next slide.

7                   Just some more images. On the left is a  
8 view along East 23rd towards the project site. You  
9 can see the number 7 train in the view there, very  
10 close, and on the right looking southwest along 23rd  
11 Street between 42nd Road and the Queens Borough  
12 Bridge Ramp. Next slide.

13                   Just some project facts. The existing  
14 building will be demolished to accommodate the  
15 construction of the new primary school. The site is  
16 very well-served with transit, subway and buses. The  
17 new primary school will have approximately 547 seats,  
18 and the design for the school includes classrooms for  
19 pre-kindergarten to grade five, District 75  
20 classroom, music and art classrooms, a science room,  
21 library, reading and resource rooms, cafeteria, and  
22 an administrative space.

23                   I'll just stop here to see if there's any  
24 questions.

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you for your  
3 presentation. I now invite my Colleagues if you have  
4 any questions.

5 All right. Council Member Feliz would  
6 love a school in his district. All right.

7 If there are no further questions, the  
8 applicant panel is excused.

9 Oh, you have a question? Sorry, go ahead.  
10 Council Member Joseph.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you. Good  
12 morning. Is there a playground for children?

13 KELLY MURPHY: Yeah, it looks like it will  
14 be a little bit on the ground floor, but the school  
15 hasn't been designed. We just do a test fit to make  
16 sure we fit the program, but we'll know more when the  
17 project gets designed, but right now we're planning  
18 on having a small playground.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: You're planning on  
20 having open space for the kids?

21 KELLY MURPHY: Yes.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Okay, thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you. Council  
24 Member Marte.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: (INAUDIBLE)

question.

CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: You still have a

question?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: No, sorry.

CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: All right. Thank you.

If there are no further questions, the applicant  
panel is now excused.

Counsel, are there any members of the  
public who wish to testify on this item?

COMMITTEE COUNSEL HUH: If there are any  
remote public participants who wish to testify and  
have not already done so on the Preconsidered LU  
items for these two SCA school sitings, please press  
the raise hand button now.

If you are here with us in person and  
wish to testify, please see one of the Sergeants to  
fill out a speaker card.

Chair, the meeting will briefly stand at  
ease while we confirm no other speakers.

CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: All right. Being there  
are no members of the public who wish to testify on  
the Preconsidered LU items for the two SCA school

sittings under application numbers G 220027 SCQ and G  
220028 SCQ, the public hearing is now closed.

We will now move on to the number of LPC...

KELLY MURPHY: I apologize for  
interrupting. That was just the first school. I  
hadn't presented the second school.

CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: We will reopen the  
public hearing, and we'll give you the opportunity  
now to present.

KELLY MURPHY: There's a second  
presentation. Go to the next slide. Thank you.

The New York City School Construction  
Authority has undertaken a site selection process for  
a new approximately 659-seat high school facility  
located at 13-20 124th Street, Block 3998, Lot 1 in  
the Borough of Queens. The site is approximately  
47,952 square feet, about 1.1 acres. The property was  
formerly utilized as a private Catholic high school  
and consists of a vacant school building, surrounding  
grounds, and a paved parking lot. The site is located  
within Queens Community District number 7 and  
Community School District number 5 in the College  
Point neighborhood of Queens. You can see this  
overview. The site is located in the heart of College

Point in the middle of a low-density neighborhood.

Next slide, please.

This is just the tax map. This is Block  
3998, Lot 1. Next slide, please.

This is our official notice of filing.  
The notice of filing of the site plan was published  
in AM New York in the City Record on November 28,  
2022, at which time the City Council on High Schools,  
Queens Community Board number 7, and the City  
Planning Commission were notified of the proposed  
site plan. The Education Committee for Queens  
Community Board number 7 held a public hearing on  
December 13, 2022, and the full Queens Community  
Board number 7 held a public hearing on January 9,  
2023. The Citywide Council on High Schools held a  
public hearing on January 11, 2023. All public  
comments received on this site were considered as  
part of the site selection process. The SCA affirms  
that the site plan pursuant to Section 1731 of New  
York Public Authority's Law and in accordance with  
1732 of the PAL. The SCA submitted the proposed site  
plan to the Mayor and City Council dated February 17,  
2023. If you can move to the next slide, please.

Thank you.

1  
2                   This is just some images of the site. The  
3 first photo is a view of the project site looking  
4 northwest from the intersection of 14th Avenue and  
5 124th Street, and the photo on the right is looking  
6 southwest from the eastern side of 124th Street. next  
7 slide.

8                   This is just a straight view of the  
9 existing school building, which will be repurposed  
10 for the new high school. Next image.

11                   The picture on the right is the rear of  
12 the school building and the parking lot viewed from  
13 123rd Street looking east, and the photo on the right  
14 is a view of the rear of the building from 123rd  
15 Street looking right. Next slide.

16                   Just some project facts. As I said, this  
17 is an existing private school building that will be  
18 converted to a new high school, and the site consists  
19 of the school grounds and a parking lot. The proposed  
20 new high school will have approximately 659 seats and  
21 includes 18 classrooms for 9th through 12th grades,  
22 two special education classrooms, a music room, an  
23 art room, science room, science lab, reading and  
24 speech resources room, a gym and exercise room,  
25

1  
2 kitchen/cafeteria, a library, guidance/medical  
3 suites, and administrative offices, and a play yard.

4 We look forward to the Subcommittee's  
5 favorable consideration of our two proposed school  
6 sites. Thank you for your time.

7 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you. You said  
8 that it was going to be repurposed. There's going to  
9 be no construction done at all?

10 KELLY MURPHY: They'll be renovations of  
11 the building itself. There will be a new play yard  
12 onto the site. It's an older building so there will  
13 be some substantial renovations to the building.

14 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: All right. Thank you.  
15 Do any of my Colleagues have any questions?

16 All right. If there are no further  
17 questions, the applicant panel is now excused.

18 Counsel, are there any members of the  
19 public who wish to testify on this item?

20 COMMITTEE COUNSEL HUH: Once again, if  
21 there are any remote public participants who wish to  
22 testify on either of these two SCA sitings, please  
23 use the raise hand button now, and if you are here in  
24 in person and wish to testify, please see a Sergeant  
25 to submit a speaker card.



CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Being that there are no members of the public who wish to testify on Preconsidered LUs items for these two SCA school sitings under application numbers G 220027 SCQ and G 220028 SCQ, the public hearing is now closed.

We will now move onto a number of LPC designations on our calendar. Because of the number of Landmark items we have today, we will first hear a series of presentations from LPC staff relating to all of the proposed designations and then we will give members of the public an opportunity to testify on these designations.

For anyone here wishing to testify regarding more than one Landmark designation, I'll ask that you please fill out a separate speaker card for each item and, if you would clarify during your testimony which items you are speaking on, we will allow you to provide your remarks all at once.

With that, I will now open the public hearing for four separate LPC designations including LU 167 for the Lesbian Herstory Archives in Brooklyn, LU 170 for the Samuel Gompers Industrial High School in the Bronx, LU 171 for the Julius' Bar Building in Manhattan, and Preconsidered LU for the Melrose

1  
2 Parkside Historic District in Brooklyn under  
3 application number N 230177 HKK.

4           Before we hear from the LPC's panelists,  
5 I'll take this moment to read into the record  
6 statements of support by some of my Colleagues in  
7 whose districts these Landmark designations are being  
8 considered.

9           I'll start with Council Member Ayala. "I  
10 am in support of the Historic Landmark designation of  
11 the Samuel Gompers Industrial High School. This  
12 building was constructed in 1931/1932 and was one of  
13 the first vocational high schools in New York City  
14 devoted to a specific industry. The building  
15 continues to train the next generation of innovators  
16 and leaders at home to Mott Haven Community High  
17 School, Health, Education, and Research Occupations  
18 High School, also known as H.E.R.O., and New Visions  
19 Charter School for the Humanities. I hope that my  
20 Colleagues will join me in supporting this historic  
21 designation and vote yes."

22           I will now read remarks from Council  
23 Member Bottcher. "I am proud to support the Historic  
24 Landmark Designation of the Julius' Bar Building, New  
25 York City's most significant site of pre-Stonewall

1  
2 LGBTQ activism. Every LGBTQ New Yorker stands on the  
3 shoulders of those before us who came out, stood up,  
4 and were counted and demanded equality. I would like  
5 to thank the Landmarks Preservation Commission for  
6 their equitable approach to making our rich history  
7 visible because LGBTQ history is New York City  
8 history. I urge my Colleagues to join me in  
9 supporting this designation to vote yes.”

10 I will now read remarks from Council  
11 Member Hanif. “I am proud today to offer my support  
12 for Landmark designation of the Lesbian Herstory  
13 Archives. The Lesbian Herstory Archives is the  
14 nation’s oldest and largest collection of lesbian-  
15 and queer-related historical material. Borne out of  
16 the movement for LGBTQ rights in New York City,  
17 inclusion and community were at the forefront of its  
18 founding. Since its inception, one of its founding  
19 principles has been to be a place where ideas and  
20 experiences from the past interact with the living  
21 issues of the lesbian community. I would like to  
22 thank the Landmarks Preservation Commission for  
23 spotlighting the largely unseen but important history  
24 of lesbian and queer New Yorkers. I urge my  
25

1  
2 Colleagues to join me in supporting this designation  
3 and to vote yes.

4           Last but not least, Council Member Joseph  
5 is here as well, and I'd like to turn it over to  
6 Council Member Joseph to deliver her statement today.  
7 Council Member Joseph.

8           COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you. Good  
9 morning. Thank you, Chair Louis. I'd like to commend  
10 the applicant team for their consideration of the  
11 history of Flatbush. I'm pleased to support the  
12 designation of this block in my District. The houses  
13 on this block were built between 1909 and 1915 are  
14 well-preserved and architecturally distinctive within  
15 the Flatbush neighborhood. They stand out with their  
16 neoclassic architectural style and as early examples  
17 of the Kinko style two-family homes. Over the last  
18 century, the neighborhood has been home to black and  
19 Caribbean families, and designation preserves not  
20 only the buildings but the legacy of the people who  
21 created a community here. I encourage my Colleagues  
22 to join me in support and to vote yes on this  
23 Historic District designation. Thank you, Chair.

24           CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you, Council  
25 Member Joseph.

1  
2           With that, Counsel, would you please call  
3 the LPC panelists and administer the affirmation?

4           COMMITTEE COUNSEL HUH: Appearing today on  
5 behalf of the LPC is Kate Lemos McHale and also  
6 available for Q and A is Sonia Guior. Panelists,  
7 would you please raise your right hands and I'll ask  
8 each of you individually in turn to answer the  
9 following.

10           Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole  
11 truth, and nothing but the truth in your testimony  
12 before the Subcommittee and in answer to all Council  
13 Member questions? Kate Lemos McHale.

14           KATE LEMOS MCHALE: I do.

15           COMMITTEE COUNSEL HUH: Sonia Guior.

16           SONIA GUIOR: I do.

17           COMMITTEE COUNSEL HUH: Thank you.

18           CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: You may begin.

19           KATE LEMOS MCHALE: Thank you, Chair  
20 Louis, and thank you, Subcommittee Members. I'm Kate  
21 Lemos McHale. I'm the Director of Research at  
22 Landmarks. Sonia Guior joining me is our Director of  
23 Community and Intergovernmental Affairs.

24           We're really glad to have the opportunity  
25 to present these recent designations. They have all

1  
2 helped further LPC's goals of equitable designations  
3 through the five boroughs and they protect  
4 significant architectural character that highlight  
5 the City's diversity, and we've had good support for  
6 them.

7           I will start with the Lesbian Herstory  
8 Archives. If we could go to the next slide, please.  
9 484 14th Street in Park Slope, Brooklyn is culturally  
10 significant as the home since 1991 of the Lesbian  
11 Herstory Archives, the nation's oldest and largest  
12 collection of lesbian-related historical material.  
13 The organization's headquarters for over 30 years,  
14 this Renaissance Revival Style building is where the  
15 archives expanded its collection, grew to national  
16 prominence, and it continues to serve a vital role.  
17 Next slide, please.

18           The Landmarks Preservation Commission  
19 designated this building an individual landmark on  
20 November 22nd. We received in-person and written  
21 testimony in support of designation from 40 people  
22 including representatives of the Lesbian Herstory  
23 Archives, the New York City LGBT Historic Sites  
24 Project, and several organizations, and we're really  
25 grateful to have the support from Council Member

1 Hanif. The Archives is located within Brooklyn's Park  
2 Slope Historic District. It was originally a two-  
3 family row house. It was built in 1908, and it  
4 contributes to the character of the Historic District  
5 but, because that district was designated in 1973  
6 before the Archives was located here, the report  
7 doesn't talk about the significance of the Archives  
8 and, in particular, the significant LGBTQ  
9 significance here so the designation as an individual  
10 landmark does recognize that significance, solidifies  
11 the period of significance to their time in the  
12 building, and is Brooklyn's first landmark designated  
13 specifically for LGBTQ significance. Next, please.

14  
15 The Lesbian Herstory Archives is an  
16 entirely volunteer-run non-profit organization. It  
17 was founded in 1974 by activist Joan Nestle and  
18 Deborah Edel and others, and it was originally housed  
19 in their apartment on the Upper West Side. This was a  
20 time when the LGBTQ community faced widespread legal  
21 and social discrimination, and the Archives began as  
22 a grassroots attempt to end the silence around  
23 lesbian history, to share lesbian stories as an  
24 integral piece of American history, and to create a  
25 physical archive for study and community gathering.

1  
2 It was intentionally feminist in nature and inclusive  
3 with women of color among its early supporters and  
4 contributors. Next, please.

5           By 1991, the collection had outgrown its  
6 space, and the Archives raised enough money to  
7 purchase 484 14th Street in Park Slope which was the  
8 center of New York's lesbian community. After more  
9 than a year of renovations, the building was  
10 transformed into their new home with space for  
11 archival storage and display, offices, community  
12 space, and a caretaker's apartment on the top floor,  
13 and they were really drawn to it because it was a  
14 residential building and a residential feel which is  
15 how they started. They were able to pay off their  
16 mortgage which really had enormous significance in  
17 that they had a permanent home that could serve as a  
18 direct response to the pervasive homophobia, sexism,  
19 and lack of lesbian space the community had  
20 experienced. Next, please.

21           In this location, the Archives has grown  
22 to hold a wide variety of materials that have been  
23 collected and donated by lesbians themselves. The  
24 collections are national in scope. They include  
25 books, periodicals, files on lesbian activists and



1  
2 community groups, audiovisual materials, oral  
3 histories, materials pertaining to issues like  
4 marriage equality cases, and personal and  
5 professional papers of lesbians from diverse  
6 communities including, for example, from the African  
7 American poet and activist Audre Lorde, and the  
8 Archives continue to expand their collection and make  
9 them more accessible by digitizing them. Next,  
10 please.

11           From this location, the community-based  
12 organization has broadened its national and  
13 international standing, inspired the creation of  
14 similar archival collections in other communities,  
15 and held numerous events and exhibitions and  
16 contributed extensively to important LGBTQ  
17 exhibitions in larger institutions. Next, please.

18           The Archives has diligently maintained  
19 the building. They've worked with LPC to make minor  
20 alterations such as the addition of a chairlift to  
21 support its use and accessibility as a public  
22 institution. The designation highlights its period of  
23 significance associated with the Lesbian Herstory  
24 Archives, which has really played such an essential  
25 role in telling the story of a mostly unseen

1  
2 community of women who have contributed meaningfully  
3 to America's cultural, political, and social history.  
4 At the end of 2022, Time Out New York listed this  
5 designation among the 15 best things that happened in  
6 the city last year, which was great.

7           That's it for this one. Do you want me to  
8 go through all of them and then take your questions?  
9 Okay.

10           If we could maybe go to Samuel Gompers  
11 High School.

12           CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Just need a couple of  
13 seconds to load up in between.

14           KATE LEMOS MCHALE: No worries. Great. If  
15 we could just go to the next slide. Thanks.

16           Located in the Mott Haven section of the  
17 South Bronx, Samuel Gompers Industrial High School is  
18 a significant civic structure. Designed in the mid-  
19 1920s by William H. Gompers and Walter C. Martin and  
20 constructed in 1931 to 1932, it blends medieval  
21 revival and art deco design features, and the arcaded  
22 brick facades and richly ornamented towers make the  
23 high school building distinctive among New York City  
24 school buildings. It was designated on December 6th,  
25 and the Commission received testimony supporting

1 designation from representatives of the Art Deco  
2 Society of New York, Historic Districts Council, Mott  
3 Haven Historic District Association, and the New York  
4 Landmarks Conservancy, and we're really grateful for  
5 Council Member Ayala's support as well. Next, please.

6  
7           The impressive public structure was  
8 identified as a priority by LPC staff in survey work  
9 in the Bronx and as well as of schools as a typology.  
10 It really stands out as prominent. It fills almost an  
11 entire block it's highly visible, and this is an area  
12 where we don't have a lot of landmark designations.  
13 Next, please.

14           Samuel Gompers Industrial High School was  
15 originally planned as Bronx Vocational High School  
16 William H. Gompert, confusingly these architect and  
17 schools, was the Board of Education's architect and  
18 Buildings Superintendent, designed the school in a  
19 distinctive medieval revival style, which you can see  
20 on the left in 1924 to 1925. The architect, Walter C.  
21 Martin, who succeeded Gompert revised the design,  
22 changing the color of the brick from red to brown and  
23 adding elaborate art deco style ornament to the  
24 towers and entrances. The Board of Education began  
25 naming schools for inspiring individuals at the end

1 of the 1920s and the Bronx Vocational High School was  
2 renamed for Samuel Gompers, the first and longest  
3 serving President of the American Federation of  
4 Labor. Next, please.

5  
6           The design reflected the school's  
7 innovative curriculum, which had evolved to focus  
8 exclusively on the study of electricity. It was the  
9 first school of this type in New York City and  
10 described as a model of its kind. The building has a  
11 square plan and two striking towers. Decoration of  
12 the towers features inscriptions and terra cotta  
13 reliefs that illustrate the various trades that  
14 depend on expertise in electricity like aviation,  
15 architecture, mechanics, etc. Above the three main  
16 entrances, large relief panels proclaim the  
17 structure's original purpose. Next, please.

18           Samuel Gompers Industrial High School for  
19 Boys opened in September 1935. The Wall Street  
20 Journal reported that it had one of the most  
21 extensive complements of electrical laboratories  
22 every provided for an institution of this kind, and  
23 the New York Times praised its course in neon  
24 lighting which taught the principles of the Great  
25 White Way, which Broadway was called. Most of the

1  
2 early students were from the Bronx and Upper  
3 Manhattan and by the early 1970s most students were  
4 black and Latino. We've learned one of its more  
5 famous graduates was Grandmaster Flash. Girls were  
6 first admitted in the early 1980s. The school closed  
7 in 2012 and was converted to an educational campus  
8 containing three independent secondary schools. Next,  
9 please.

10                   With its striking architecture and  
11 innovative curriculum serving a diverse student body,  
12 Samuel Gompers Industrial High School is really among  
13 the City's most distinctive public high school  
14 buildings.

15                   We can move to Julius' Bar Building,  
16 please. Okay, and the next slide, please.

17                   Julius' Bar Building is New York City's  
18 most significant site of pre-Stonewall LGBTQ  
19 activism. In 1966, gay rights' activists staged a  
20 demonstration at Julius' to protest the closure of  
21 bars by city and state authorities simply for serving  
22 gay people. The event known ever since as the Sip In  
23 exemplified the movement's new eagerness to confront  
24 society's persecution of LGBTQ people head-on,  
25 embracing the direct action modeled on the Civil

1  
2 Rights movement and anticipating the activism of  
3 Stonewall and the Gay Liberation Movement. The  
4 designation on December 6th received widespread  
5 support and testimony including from Julius' Bar  
6 owner Helen Buford, Sip-In witness Ricky Wicker who  
7 referred to the event as "gay people's declaration of  
8 independence," elected officials including New York  
9 State Assembly Member Deborah Glick, State Senator  
10 Brad Hoylman, several organizations including the NYC  
11 LGBT Historic Sites Project and Village Preservation,  
12 and more than 200 letters and emails, and we're very  
13 grateful for Council Member Bottcher's support here  
14 as well. We could go to the next slide, please.

15           Julius' is located at West 10th Street  
16 and Waverly Place in the Greenwich Village Historic  
17 District, and, as with the 2015 designation of  
18 Stonewall Inn, designating the Julius' Bar Building  
19 as an individual landmark officially recognizes its  
20 centrality to the history of the gay rights' movement  
21 and cements the moment of the crucial protest that  
22 took place here as its period of significance. Next,  
23 please.

24           The building evolved into its current  
25 form over the 19th and early 20th centuries and today

1  
2 appears much as it did at the time of the Sip-In. A  
3 saloon was operating there by 1900, and Julius' Bar  
4 and Restaurant opened by 1930 during Prohibition. It  
5 soon became known as a gathering place for artists,  
6 writers, and journalists and was the founding  
7 location of the Village Voice in 1955. Next, please.

8           At the time of the Sip-In, the LGBTQ  
9 community faced restrictive laws and legal and social  
10 discrimination across the country. Gay men were  
11 targeted as criminals in New York City and entrapment  
12 by plainclothes police officers was common. The State  
13 Liquor Authority viewed the mere presence of LGBTQ  
14 people on a premises as disorderly and revoked  
15 licenses from bars that served gay people. This  
16 practice could destroy the personal and professional  
17 lives of LGBTQ individuals as well as shut down the  
18 places where they were able to meet freely. In 1965,  
19 the Mattachine Society of New York, then the  
20 country's largest gay rights organization, was  
21 determined to stop the closure and secure the rights  
22 of gay men and lesbians to gather openly in public.  
23 These efforts were led by their new president, Dick  
24 Leitsch, who joined fellow activists Randy Wicker and  
25 Craig Rodwell who are shown here. Next, please.

1  
2           The Mattachine Society planned a public  
3 action to document the discrimination and force the  
4 State Liquor Authority to answer for its policies.  
5 Three conservatively dressed men followed by the  
6 press would present a letter telling a bar manager  
7 they were gay and ask to be served. Though clearly  
8 not disorderly, they expected to be denied service  
9 since bar managers understood serving a known gay  
10 patron to be illegal. The action was carried by  
11 Leitsch, Rodwell, and John Timmons on April 21, 1966.  
12 Next, please.

13           After a few attempts, it was at Julius'  
14 which at the time attracted both gay and straight  
15 patrons, where the three men joined by Randy Wicker  
16 as a witness received their denial and were able to  
17 document it publicly. As Leitsch later recalled, the  
18 bartender covered the glass and said I can't serve  
19 you if you're gay, you know that, you're with the  
20 Mattachine Society, you know it's against the law to  
21 serve homosexuals, we got busted last week. Village  
22 Voice photographer Fred W. McDarrah's photo shown  
23 here capturing the moment is one of the iconic images  
24 of the early LGBTQ rights' movement. Next, please.



1  
2           Media coverage included a sympathetic  
3 article in the Village Voice, and the New York Times  
4 using derogatory language typical of the time called  
5 the event a noontime Sip-In and that apparently  
6 coined the term that it's known as now. A few days  
7 later in the Times, William H. Booth who was the  
8 former head of the New York State NAACP and the  
9 City's new Commissioner of Human Rights stated his  
10 support for the Mattachine's goals and its opposition  
11 to "the denial of bar service to a homosexual simply  
12 for that reason. This was the strongest statement in  
13 favor of LGBTQ rights by a major city official up  
14 until that time. Next, please.

15           In recent years, the legacy of the Sip-In  
16 has increasingly come into focus. Dick Leitsch, Randy  
17 Wicker, and Craig Rodwell are considered pioneers and  
18 major figures in the city's gay rights' movement. The  
19 Sip-In itself represents the ascendancy of a new  
20 militancy and fearlessness without which the 1969  
21 Stonewall Rebellion might not have happened. As the  
22 site of the Sip-In, this building shines a light onto  
23 this activism and it remains a place of active LGBTQ  
24 history commemoration. Mayor Adams and Council Member  
25 Eric Bottcher celebrated the designation at Julius'

1  
2 that day and among news and social media coverage the  
3 designation was also listed among the coolest things  
4 that happened in the city last year which was great.  
5 Next, please.

6 This is the end. The last one is the  
7 Melrose Park Site Historic District. I can just start  
8 in.

9 The Melrose Park Site Historic District  
10 is a cohesive group of 38 architecturally and  
11 significant single- and two-family duplex row houses  
12 designed by two prolific Brooklyn architects and  
13 built between 1909 and 1915. It has a strong sense of  
14 place from its intact historic character and contains  
15 likely the largest and most distinctive collection in  
16 the city of a house type unique to Brooklyn known as  
17 the Kinko House. Next, please.

18 The Historic District is located on  
19 Parkside Avenue between Flatbush and Bedford Avenues  
20 in the Flatbush neighborhood of Brooklyn. It was  
21 identified through surveys and in response to  
22 requests from property owners to evaluate it, and  
23 some of our supporters are shown here on the slide  
24 being interviewed by New York 1. In our study of the  
25 district within the broader neighborhood, we really

1  
2 did find it to stand out for the quality of the  
3 architecture and the consistency and integrity in  
4 comparison to the surrounding areas. The district as  
5 you can see here includes just the row houses that  
6 were built in a very short period of time and share  
7 this great quality. Outreach and engagement with  
8 property owners began before the pandemic and  
9 continued through many conversations, and we had two  
10 virtual meetings with property owners to talk about  
11 the study, to explain what living in a historic  
12 district means, and to help build understanding and  
13 support for the District. We did get a lot of support  
14 here in letters and in testimony, including from some  
15 lifelong residents. We did also hear from some people  
16 concerned about regulation who opposed designation,  
17 and all of that record is in the designation report.  
18 Next, please.

19                   The name Melrose Parkside reflects the  
20 early history of the block where an 18th century  
21 manor house called Melrose Hall was once located and  
22 became the namesake for a planned suburban  
23 development in the 19th century that actually never  
24 came to pass. The property was sold to a wealthy  
25 brewer whose son, William Arthur Alexander Brown

1 began developing it with single- and two-family  
2 houses in the early 20th century, and they were built  
3 between 1909 and 1915 in distinct rows as you can see  
4 here. Next, please.

5  
6           The dominant house type within the  
7 district is an unusual type of two-family duplex  
8 apparently unique to Brooklyn. The Kings and  
9 Westchester Land Company first developed these in  
10 1905 in other neighborhoods and marketed them as  
11 Kinko Houses. They were designed to offer greater  
12 privacy than conventional two-family brownstones with  
13 completely separate entrances. Brown, the developer,  
14 envisioned Parkside Avenue as an exclusive  
15 neighborhood and marketed his duplex houses as "the  
16 most perfect houses ever built for two families yet  
17 with the privacy of a one-family house." Next,  
18 please.

19           The architect, Benjamin Driesler,  
20 composed six distinct alternative designs in the  
21 classical vocabulary to create what the Brooklyn  
22 Eagle described as the latest type of modern house  
23 building with artistic and varied fronts of fine  
24 architectural design. The two rows of these houses in  
25 the district are the largest and most distinctive

1 collection of this house type that we know of in the  
2 city. Next, please.

3  
4 In 1912, Brown again turned to Benjamin  
5 Driesler to design a row of eight single-family  
6 houses which he marketed as "easy housekeeping, no-  
7 basement houses," and these have deep open areaways  
8 and they have a variety of classically inspired  
9 elements and wide terraces. Next, please.

10 In 1913, Eli H. Bishop and Son began  
11 building a row 10 American basement plan single-  
12 family houses. Those were built by 1915, designed in  
13 the neoclassical style by the architect, Axel Hedman,  
14 and these are quiet elegant houses and feature  
15 prominent central entrances and a variety of  
16 (INAUDIBLE) or flat bays. Next, please.

17 Early residents in the district were  
18 white and predominantly born in the United States. By  
19 the mid-20th century, Flatbush saw a large increase  
20 in African American and Afro-Caribbean residents. The  
21 area soon became the center of the city's growing  
22 Afro-Caribbean community, and today this vibrant  
23 block of Parkside Avenue continues to reflect the  
24 diversity of Flatbush. The Block Association is  
25 active, and the community's excellent stewardship of

1  
2 these buildings contributes to its special character  
3 and sense of place. Next, please.

4                   With this distinctive variety of row  
5 houses united by classically inspired design  
6 elements, the Melrose Parkside District has highly  
7 intact historic character and a strong sense of  
8 place. The Commission voted unanimously to designate  
9 the District, and we're very grateful to have Council  
10 Member Joseph's support here.

11                   I'm happy to answer any questions you  
12 have on this or any of the previous designations.

13                   CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you and I just  
14 want to say thank you for capturing the true  
15 historical essence of each project in your testimony.  
16 I really appreciate it. Council Member Joseph had to  
17 run to another hearing. She had three quick questions  
18 so I'll ask them and then open it up for my  
19 Colleagues. What are the consequences of not  
20 landmarking this block?

21                   KATE LEMOS MCHALE: That's a good  
22 question, and I think that this is an area where  
23 people are seeing development kind of encroaching  
24 around it, and we did hear from some property owners  
25 here concerns about that so I think by not

1  
2 designating it then you run the risk that a building  
3 could be demolished and replaced by something really  
4 out of character or something that would disrupt the  
5 character of the block so I think the people who live  
6 here and the support we got, some people who have  
7 lived here for 40 years, really do appreciate that  
8 character and wanted to see it protected.

9 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Does the landmark  
10 status make upkeep of the homes more expensive for  
11 homeowners?

12 KATE LEMOS MCHALE: That's another  
13 question we get, and actually it's one that we talk  
14 about a lot with people when we're trying to make  
15 sure they understand. Landmark designation does come  
16 with more responsibility. You need to put projects  
17 through a review process with the Landmarks  
18 Commission, and it's hard to say really what a change  
19 in cost might be because we don't know what people  
20 would've done otherwise.

21 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: But there's definitely  
22 a cost?

23 KATE LEMOS MCHALE: Well, I think there  
24 are, and I'll talk you through some things.

CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: I'm aware of it. Just  
for the record, for those that are listening.

KATE LEMOS MCHALE: Landmarks doesn't  
require homeowners to make change. It allows change.  
People come to us with what they want to do with  
their buildings. We don't require certain contractors  
or architects so people can choose who they want to  
work with. Our staff has a lot of expertise to  
actually help guide people to do things that are  
better in the long-run health of their building. A  
lot of work that people do on buildings, the cost is  
actually in the labor, like if you have to repoint a  
façade, and so we can guide people to make sure that  
they're using the right mortar that's going to  
actually preserve the building better and may save  
money in the long run. We guide people to replace  
windows with units that are appropriate to what was  
there historically and doors. There is flexibility,  
for example, if you have a one-over-one sash window,  
we can really approve any kind of replacement for  
that as long as it fits into the historic frame, and  
so we have those row house districts throughout the  
city and our staff is very accustomed to the needs of

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1  
2 the owners of these houses so we really do what we  
3 can to try to help them achieve what they need to.

4 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you. We were  
5 joined by Council Member Nurse, and Council Member  
6 Vernikov has a quick question.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: My question is  
8 if the individual property owner, if a specific  
9 individual property owner would like to opt out of  
10 the landmark designation, do you know if that's a  
11 possibility?

12 KATE LEMOS MCHALE: The Landmarks Law  
13 doesn't require owner support or consent to a  
14 designation. We do work really hard to get it though  
15 because this is kind of a contract that's going on  
16 and on, and we want to be able to work with people  
17 who want to be part of it. In a district, it's not  
18 uncommon to have some people that are not as  
19 supportive as others. We work really hard to make  
20 sure people understand our process and have someone  
21 they can talk to in our staff, and we try to get a  
22 majority of support.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: So it wouldn't  
24 be possible if I understand correctly?

1  
2 KATE LEMOS MCHALE: To have one person opt  
3 out of a district, no, typically no.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Do any of my other  
6 Colleagues have any questions?

7 All right, since there are no questions,  
8 the applicant panel is excused.

9 Counsel, are there any members of the  
10 public who wish to testify on any of these four  
11 items?

12 COMMITTEE COUNSEL HUH: Yes, Chair Louis.  
13 There are approximately five public witnesses who  
14 have signed up to speak remotely.

15 If you a member of the public signed up  
16 to testify on any of these LPC designations, please  
17 stand by as you hear your names being called and  
18 prepare to speak when the Chair says that you may  
19 begin.

20 Please also note that in the event that  
21 Council Members have questions, you're asked to  
22 remain online until excused as Council Members may  
23 have questions.

24 We will now hear from the five witnesses  
25 in the following order. First, we will hear Amanda

1  
2 Davis who will be followed by Michael Lent who will  
3 be followed Cheryl Sealey. Amanda Davis to testify  
4 first.

5 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Amanda, you may begin.

6 AMANDA DAVIS: Good morning. Can you hear  
7 me, Council Members?

8 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Yes, we can, and you  
9 may begin.

10 AMANDA DAVIS: Okay, thank you. My name is  
11 Amanda Davis, and I'm the Project Manager of the New  
12 York City LGBT Historic Sites Project. I'll be  
13 testifying in support of the Lesbian Herstory  
14 Archives and Julius' Bar Building.

15 Just quickly, we're an award-winning and  
16 nationally recognized cultural heritage initiative  
17 founded in 2015 to document historic places connected  
18 to the LGBTQ community in the city's five boroughs,  
19 and we're proud to say that New York City continues  
20 to lead the nation in the number of LGBTQ officially  
21 landmarked sites.

22 The project strongly supports the  
23 designation of the Lesbian Herstory Archives as a New  
24 York City landmark which is the first LGBTQ historic  
25 site to be designated in Brooklyn. When we launched

1  
2 our website with an inaugural 100 sites several years  
3 ago, the Lesbian Herstory Archives was included. Its  
4 resources, particularly its archival photographs,  
5 have also been invaluable to our project in  
6 documenting many of the 430-plus sites on our  
7 website. With a history that plans nearly 50 years  
8 and 30 of those in Park Slope, the Lesbian Herstory  
9 Archives is likely the first longstanding lesbian-  
10 specific community space in the city. It's also an  
11 early example of a group run by and for lesbians. The  
12 Archives was born out a need to provide a voice for  
13 lesbians who often felt underrepresented and unheard  
14 in gay male dominated groups and to connect emerging  
15 lesbian artists and writers with more established  
16 ones at a time when lesbians were less visible in the  
17 mainstream culture and access to this previously  
18 unknown lesbian-affirming literature, ephemera, and  
19 other archival items has also empowered women and  
20 linked them with their past. The Archives' location  
21 in Park Slope also speaks to the importance of the  
22 neighborhood to lesbian history because by the early  
23 1990s Park Slope was popular with lesbians and their  
24 families as a place to live and find community, and  
25 several lesbian-associated groups and businesses

1 including the Archives operated here and so this  
2 designation of the Archives Building as a New York  
3 City landmark would also highlight and celebrate Park  
4 Slope's significance to the lesbian community.  
5

6           For Julius' Bar, we also strongly support  
7 the designation of this building as a New York City  
8 landmark. In 1994, when LGBTQ representation as a  
9 whole was virtually visible in mainstream society,  
10 our three project founders helped create what we  
11 believe is the first map in the country to document  
12 LGBTQ historic places, and the building that houses  
13 Julius' was included. The NYC LGBT Historic Sites  
14 Project was founded as a continuation of this early  
15 1990s effort, and landmarking the Julius' Bar  
16 Building was one of its first priorities. We  
17 researched and wrote the National Register of  
18 Historic Places nomination for Julius' which was  
19 approved in April 2016, one day before the 50th  
20 anniversary of the so-called Sip-In. Julius' being  
21 located just a few-minutes walk from the more famous  
22 Stonewall Inn means that it has a place in LGBTQ  
23 history that is just as significant. The events at  
24 Stonewall in June 1969 did not exist in a vacuum. In  
25 the decades leading up to that uprising, bars were

1  
2 one of the few places that LGBTQ people could gather  
3 openly. Yet, at the same time, there were always  
4 inherent risks since the mere presence of a  
5 homosexual in a bar was considered to be disorderly,  
6 frequent police raids and other forms of entrapment  
7 could lead to arrests, loss of employment, and  
8 physical and mental abuse among other threats. With  
9 photographers in tow, the game-changing public action  
10 by the Mattachine Society on April 21, 1966, which  
11 culminated at Julius' was the earliest planned effort  
12 to capture LGBTQ discrimination in real-time, and  
13 when we give walking tours in the area we typically  
14 end at Julius', and young people, in particular, are  
15 often surprised to learn that at one time, even in  
16 New York City and even in Greenwich Village, LGBTQ  
17 people faced these hardships in bars of all places.  
18 Julius' is therefore not only a great place to hang  
19 out but also a valuable teaching tool, and so today  
20 the NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project asks that the  
21 City Council Subcommittee on Landmarks...

22 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time has expired.

23 AMANDA DAVIS: Approves this designation  
24 for Julius' Bar and the Lesbian Herstory Archives.  
25 Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you, Amanda.

Now, we'll hear from Michael.

MICHAEL LENT: Good morning, Chair Louis,  
and I want to thank our Council Woman Joseph and also  
the Landmarks Commission on supporting the Melrose  
Parkside Historic District.

My name is Michael Lent, and I live at  
393-395 Parkside Avenue along with my wife, Diane,  
who's with me here and co-owners Jennifer Levy  
(phonetic) and Paul Schwab (phonetic). Our home is  
one of the Kinko homes designed and built in 1909 and  
1910. We have lived at 393-395 Parkside for the past  
22 years, and we bought our home in 1999 and moved  
here in 2000. We were attracted to the block because  
of the beautiful historic homes, the diversity of the  
neighborhood, and the welcoming neighbors we met.  
Many people, both homeowners and renters, have lived  
on the block for many, many years. We have a  
wonderful block association that has fostered a  
strong sense of community. Starting in 2015, we  
became aware that developers had determined that the  
neighborhood was an up-and-coming one and started  
buying homes on adjacent blocks, tearing them down,  
and building new multi-family dwellings, often not in

1  
2 keeping with the neighborhoods' or blocks' character.  
3 The dwellings torn down included wonderful all brick  
4 and stone homes. This concerned many of our  
5 homeowners and resulted in a group of homeowners  
6 providing the New York City Landmarks Commission with  
7 information on the historic nature of the homes on  
8 our block and gaining the support of many of the  
9 block's homeowners. We actually started this process  
10 in 2016 so it's been literally seven years that we've  
11 been working on this. We've petitioned the Landmarks  
12 Preservation Commission several times. We understand  
13 some of the extra work we needed to do to submit to  
14 staff review, but we think the trade-off is worth it  
15 in maintaining the character of this community, which  
16 is of vital importance to us. Again, we appreciate so  
17 much the work of the Landmarks Preservation  
18 Commission in support of this effort and also our  
19 City Council Woman Rita Joseph as well. Thank you  
20 very much.

21 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you, Michael.  
22 Now, we'll hear from Cheryl.

23 CHERYL SEALEY: Good morning. Thank you  
24 for allowing me to speak this morning.

25



1

2

CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Good morning, Cheryl.

3

You may start. You have two minutes.

4

CHERYL SEALEY: Okay. I'm a longtime

5

resident of Parkside. One second. Sorry. I'm a

6

longtime resident of 25+ years and a homeowner on

7

Parkside Avenue. I've watched our community decimated

8

by overdevelopment, homes on adjoining blocks

9

destroyed to make way for new and out-of-context

10

development. The early years had its struggles, but

11

today we are facing new challenges of gentrification,

12

overdevelopment, and destruction of existing homes.

13

Parkside Avenue has experienced the same struggles

14

and threats. We are a diverse block of not just

15

private homes but also home to large amount of rent-

16

stabilized apartments including two HDFC buildings.

17

Parkside is not just fighting to save the homes on

18

the block but to preserve this diverse, inclusive,

19

and caring community that we have created throughout

20

the years. I urge the New York City Council Land Use

21

Committee to support the designation of Parkside

22

Avenue as a New York City Landmark Block. Thank you.

23

CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you, Cheryl. Is

24

Julie available or Jesse?

25

All right, you may start.

1  
2           JESSE MILLER: We're in a similar  
3 situation to Michael, and I'd like to really second  
4 everything he said. He basically told our situation.  
5 The only thing I'd like to add is that instead of his  
6 22 years, we've been here for 38. As far as the block  
7 preserving historical or architectural significance  
8 status, I think the Landmark Commission has done a  
9 great job with that. I'd just like to answer really  
10 one of the key questions that was asked was do we  
11 need this status, and I would heartily add yes to  
12 that. As the other people have said, development is  
13 going crazy in our neighborhood and homes are being  
14 torn down and replaced with apartment buildings. The  
15 specific threat to our block is partially demolition,  
16 but the worst thing which could happen and is more  
17 likely to happen is someone adding floors on top of  
18 these houses which are generally always completely  
19 out of character and really ugly. That's what I'd  
20 like to say. We appreciate your consideration of this  
21 and would like to say that we and many of the other  
22 homeowners are in support of the designation.

23           CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you. Can you  
24 state your name?

25           JESSE MILLER: Me?

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: State your full name,  
3 yes.

4 JESSE MILLER: Yeah, Jesse Miller.

5 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Okay. Now, we'll hear  
6 from Julie.

7 JULIE MILLER: I'm Julie Miller. I just  
8 want to add one piece which is that we do have a very  
9 tightknit block between homeowners and apartment  
10 dwellers, and I have spoken to many of our neighbors  
11 who are not homeowners, and they, too, are in favor  
12 of landmarking because they love living on a block  
13 where there is so much beauty. As a homeowner myself,  
14 I just want to say that I don't only see myself as  
15 enjoying the benefits of my own home, but I feel like  
16 I am stewarding architectural history, and that's a  
17 responsibility that I accept, and if it costs a  
18 little bit more I'm willing to accept that too. Thank  
19 you very much for considering this.

20 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you, Julie. Do  
21 any of my Colleagues have any questions for the  
22 panel?

23 All right, Counsel.

24 COMMITTEE COUNSEL HUH: If there are any  
25 other members of the public who wish to testify on

1  
2 any of the LPC designations heard today, please press  
3 the raise hand button now if participating remotely.  
4 If you are here in person wishing to testify, please  
5 see one of the Sergeants to submit a speaker card.

6 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Being there are no  
7 members of the public who wish to testify on LU 167  
8 related to the Lesbian Herstory Archives at 484 14th  
9 Street in Brooklyn, LU 170 related to the Samuel  
10 Gompers Industrial High School in the Bronx, LU 171  
11 for the Julius' Bar Building in Manhattan, And  
12 Preconsidered LU related to the application N 230177  
13 HKK for the Melrose Parkside Historic District in  
14 Brooklyn, the public hearing for these items is  
15 closed and the items are laid over.

16 Now, I would like to take the time again  
17 to recognize any of my Colleagues. I recognized  
18 Council Member Nurse already.

19 I will now hand it over to Counsel to  
20 call for a vote.

21 COMMITTEE COUNSEL HUH: On a vote to  
22 approve the designations, Chair Louis.

23 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: I now call for a vote  
24 to approve the Preconsidered application numbers G  
25 220027 SCQ and G 220028 SCQ along with LUs 167, 170,

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171, and Preconsidered application number N 230177  
HKK. Counsel, please call the roll.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL HUH: Chair Louis.

CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL HUH: Council Member

Feliz.

COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL HUH: Council Member

Marte.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL HUH: Council Member

Nurse.

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL HUH: Council Member

Ung.

COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL HUH: Council Member

Vernikov.

COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL HUH: By a vote of six

in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no  
abstentions, the items are approved and referred to  
the full Land Use Committee.

2 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Congratulations to all  
3 my Colleagues. That concludes today's business. I  
4 remind you that if you have written testimony on  
5 today's items, you may submit it to  
6 [landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov](mailto:landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov). Please indicate the  
7 LU number or the project name or the project  
8 addressed in the subject heading.

9 I would like to thank the members of the  
10 public, my Colleagues, Subcommittee Counsel, Land Use  
11 Staff, and Sergeant-at-Arms for their participation  
12 today.

13 This meeting is hereby adjourned. [GAVEL]  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date February 25, 2023