

**TESTIMONY OF THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION BEFORE THE
CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING, AND
MARITIME USES ON THE DESIGNATION OF ONE CHASE MANHATTAN PLAZA,
MANHATTAN**
April 20, 2009

Good morning, Councilmembers. My name is Kate Daly, Executive Director of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of One Chase Manhattan Plaza, Manhattan.

On June 24, 2008, the Landmarks Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation. Seven people spoke in favor of designation, including representatives of the building's owner, United States Representative Jerrold Nadler, and Council Member Alan J. Gerson. There were no speakers in opposition to designation. On February 10, 2009, the Commission voted to designate One Chase Manhattan Plaza an individual landmark.

Faced with shimmering panels of natural color and black-enameled aluminum, H-shaped mullions and glass, One Chase Manhattan Plaza is among the largest and most important 20th-century skyscrapers in New York City. The project was designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in the International Style. Chase merged with the Bank of the Manhattan Company in 1955 and the new headquarters was planned to consolidate 8,700 employees under a single roof, resulting in an 813-foot-tall slab-like tower that dramatically altered the skyline and character of the financial district. At that time, few buildings had been constructed downtown since the early 1930s and One Chase Manhattan Plaza signaled a new start for this historic area. Not only did it stand out sharply from its older masonry neighbors, but the planning of the site, incorporating an irregularly shaped 2½ acre plaza, established a break from the narrow, twisting streets that characterize much of the neighborhood. Completed in 1964, it was one of the financial district's first buildings to boldly reflect the aesthetic and planning strategies of 20th-century European modernism.

The Commission urges you to affirm the designation.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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in favor in opposition

Date: April 20-2009

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Gregory P. Shaw

Address: 30-30 Thomson Ave LIC NY 1101

I represent: NYC School Construction Authority

Address: 30-30 Thomson Ave LIC NY 1101

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Appearance Card

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in favor in opposition

Date: 4/23/09

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Name: Tami Rachelson

Address: 30-30 Thomson Ave, LIC NY 1101

I represent: NYC School Construction Authority

Address: _____

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Appearance Card

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Name: Maragret Russo (Principal)

Address: P.S. 160 5105 Ft. Hamilton Pkwy Bklyn 11219

I represent: P.S. 160

Address: See above

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in favor in opposition

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Name: KATE DALY

Address: _____

I represent: LPC

Address: 1 CENTRE ST.

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Name: Gaekam P. Shaw

Address: 30-30 Thomson Ave LIC NY 11101

I represent: NYC School Construction Authority

Address: 30-30 Thomson Ave LIC NY 11101

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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

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Date: 4/23/09

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Name: Tami Rachelson

Address: 30-30 Thomson Ave, LIC, NY 11101

I represent: NEW YORK CITY School Construction Authority

Address: _____

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