1 Centre Street 9th Floor North New York, NY 10007 Voice (212) 669 7700 Fax (212) 669 7960 nyc.gov/landmarks

#### September 18, 2019

Testimony before the New York City Council Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses regarding the Bay Ridge Parkway – Doctors' Row Historic District

Good afternoon Councilmember Koo and Subcommittee Members. I am Kate Lemos McHale, Director of Research at the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to present the Bay Ridge Parkway-Doctors' Row Historic District designated on June 25. The historic district is the first in Bay Ridge, and is a distinguished example of the neighborhood's transformation from a suburban resort community to a middle-class urban neighborhood in the early 20th century. In addition to the high quality of its architecture, it has acquired a noteworthy association as a Doctors' Row thanks to the number of medical professionals who have lived and had offices on the block, both historically and currently.

The historic district is located between Fourth and Fifth avenues in the Bay Ridge neighborhood of Brooklyn. A request to evaluate the block came from the community, with support from Councilmember Brannan, and Community Board 10. At its public hearing on May 14, 2019, and in written testimony, the Commission received support from 11 organizations and individuals, including State Senator Andrew Gounardes, Councilmember Justin Brannan, Brooklyn Community Board 10, Historic Districts Council, and the New York Landmarks Conservancy. There was no opposition to designation.

Bay Ridge was primarily an agricultural community until the late 19th century when resorts and suburban residences were constructed along the shore. Bay Ridge Parkway was originally envisioned as a boulevard to connect to Shore Drive along New York Bay and the historic district is a prominent, tree-lined block. The plan to construct the 4th Avenue Subway line, announced in 1903, was the primary catalyst for rapid speculative development in Bay Ridge. It reached 86th Street in Bay Ridge in 1916.

The Bay Ridge Development Company was organized in 1904 and its secretary, builder Arthur Douglas Constant, was charged with constructing row houses on both sides of Bay Ridge Parkway, between Fourth and Fifth avenues, shown here in an advertisement from 1907, that were "calculated to supply a long felt want for one family houses in Bay Ridge and will constitute the only complete block of such residences in the section."

The entire block was constructed in segments over seven years between 1906 and 1913, primarily between 1906 and 1909. A. D. Constant constructed most of the buildings and the rows were designed by just two architects: Benjamin Driesler, a prolific Brooklyn architect, and William Flanagan. The block developed with a cohesive appearance overall.

In our evaluation and boundary analysis of the potential district, LPC staff studied a broader area and found that this block in particular stands out within the larger neighborhood context due to its high

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architectural quality and consistency, which in combination with the parkway's boulevard feeling creates a strong sense of place and historic character.

Within the historic district, the row houses are set-back behind spacious areaways and are primarily characterized by limestone facades, bowed or angled fronts, low stoops, stone window and door surrounds, and embellished cornices typical of the Renaissance Revival style. The north side of the block is architecturally very consistent. On the right is a brick building at the eastern end of the block. It was constructed to house a doctor's office, a trend that would become ubiquitous on the block in later decades.

The south side of the street includes brick row houses, and limestone—fronted row houses similar to the north side, including 8 with Colonial Revival entrances that were advertised as "House Colonials" and described by the Bay Ridge Development Co. as having "an exterior design [that] is something entirely new in house building."

The historic district has a high level of integrity. Alterations are mostly limited to replacement doors and windows, changes to the areaways, or the addition of a basement "doctor's office" entrance.

Census data and telephone directories provided information regarding medical professionals who lived or had offices on this block between 1910 and 1960, indicating a rapid increase in medical professionals on the block. Among the first references to this block as "Doctors' Row" appears to be from a Brooklyn Daily Eagle real estate advertisement in 1949. By 1950 and continuing into the 1960s, well over half of the buildings doctors and other medical professionals in residence or with offices on the block. Other blocks in the city have been referred to as Doctors' Rows, including examples within LPC designated districts in the South Bronx, Manhattan, and Brooklyn. The term seems to have typically been used for promotional real estate purposes and to emphasize particularly elegant blocks within a neighborhood where a concentration of professionals resided.

In these two photos taken in 1907 and 2019 - 112 years apart – you can see the block still looks very much as it did in the first decade of the 20th century; it strongly reflects the architectural and historical development of this section of Bay Ridge, and still houses doctors' offices.

Thank you for the opportunity to present Bay Ridge's first historic district, I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



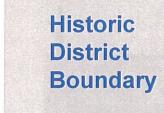
## Bay Ridge Parkway -Doctors' Row Historic District

September 18, 2019





Bay Ridge Parkway – Doctors' Row Historic District Designated June 25, 2019







## Historical Context

View of New York Bay from Bay Ridge, L.I. Museum of the City of New York, 1860



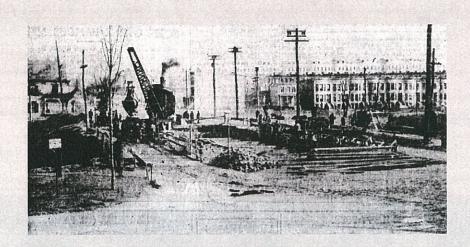


Bay Ridge Parkway – Doctors' Row Historic District Designated June 25, 2019

## SUBWAY WILL BE GREAT AID TO REAL ESTATE

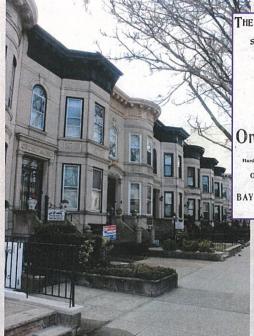
Enormous Population Now Assured for Partially Developed Suburban Area.

REALTY MEN ARE JUBILANT.



The Brooklyn Daily Eagle October 29, 1909 "Where the First Excavation Was Made for the Bay Ridge Extension of the Fourth Avenue Subway," The Brooklyn Daily Eagle
January 13, 1913





#### THE BAY RIDGE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Are Building the Entire Block on SEVENTY-FIFTH STREET PARKWAY, Between Fourth and Fifth Avenues. With Beautiful



One Family Stone Houses
of 7 Rooms, Bath and Laundry,
Hardwood Trim, Attractively Phomed, Supply Built, with Every
Modern Convenience. Come and Look at Thum. ONLY THREE LEFT AT \$6,500 EACH.

Open Every Day and Sundays.

#### BAY RIDGE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Seventy-fifth Street Parkway, Between Fourth and Fifth Avenues.

Brooklyn Daily Eagle ad, 1907

Bay Ridge Parkway South Side (left); North Side (right), LPC, 2019



Landmarks Preservation Commission

Bay Ridge Parkway – Doctors' Row Historic District Designated June 25, 2019





North side of Bay Ridge Parkway

LPC, 2019







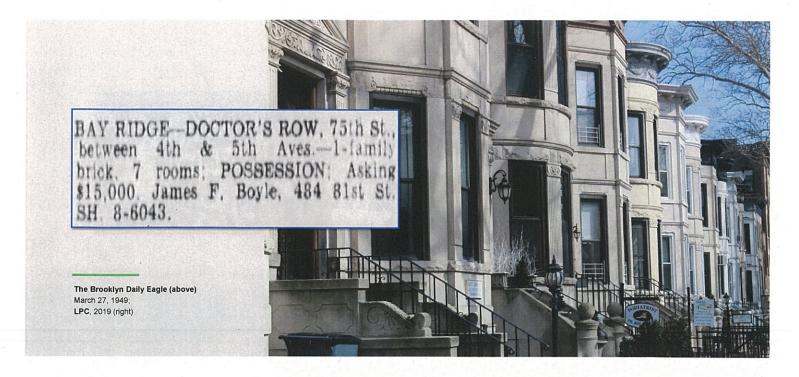
January 2018 (and Google Earth)



Bay Ridge Parkway – Doctors' Row Historic District Designated June 25, 2019



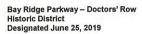






Bay Ridge Parkway – Doctors' Row Historic District Designated June 25, 2019











Bay Ridge Parkway, north side 1907 (left); 2019 (right)



Bay Ridge Parkway – Doctors' Row Historic District Designated June 25, 2019

## Bay Ridge Parkway – Doctors' Row Historic District

September 18, 2019





# **Sunset Park Historic Districts**

September 18, 2019

47th Street between 5th and 6th Avenue, LPC





Sunset Park Historic Districts
Designated June 18, 2019

## **Sunset Park**

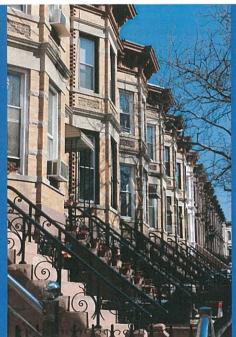
LPC Map





# Historic District Framework

- Include intact rows of buildings that exemplify Sunset Park's historical and architectural development
- Incorporate blocks with strongest character, highest integrity and cohesiveness, that together create distinct sense of place







Sunset Park Historic Districts Designated June 18, 2019

# Owner Outreach and Public Engagement



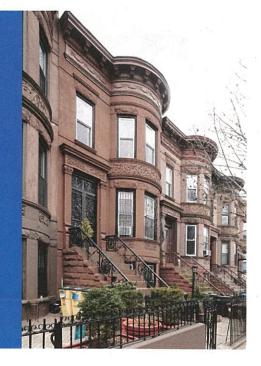






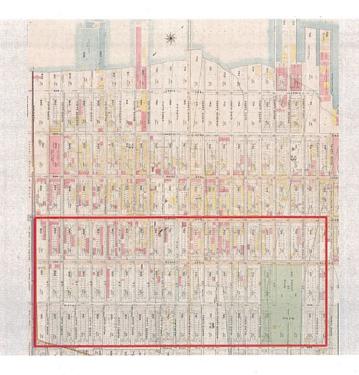
Landmarks Preservation Commission Sunset Park Historic Districts Designated June 18, 2019

Historical Development and Architectural Character



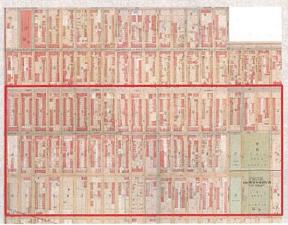
48th Street between 5th and 6th Avenues, LPC





## Historic Maps of Sunset Park

Left: 1898 Map, NYPL. Right: 1903 Map, NYPL









1890-1900 Photo: 58th Street between 4th Avenue and 5th Avenue

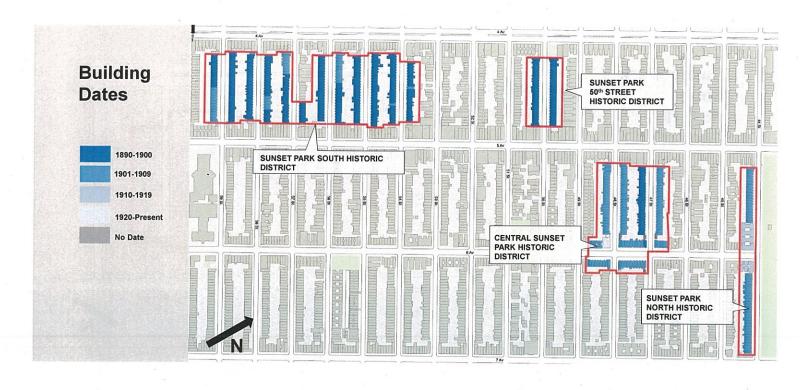


1901-1909 Photo: 54<sup>th</sup> Street between 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue

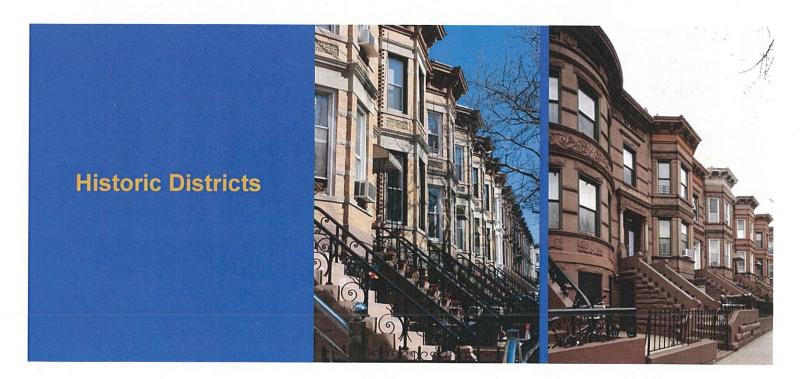


1910-1919 Photo: 44<sup>th</sup> Street at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue





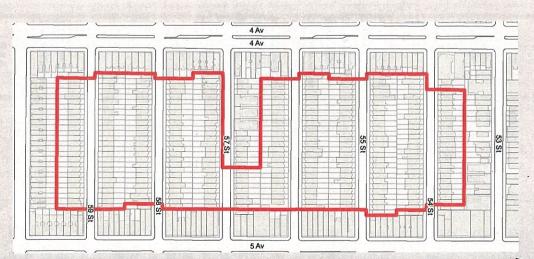














Landmarks Preservation
Commission

Sunset Park Historic Districts Designated June 18, 2019

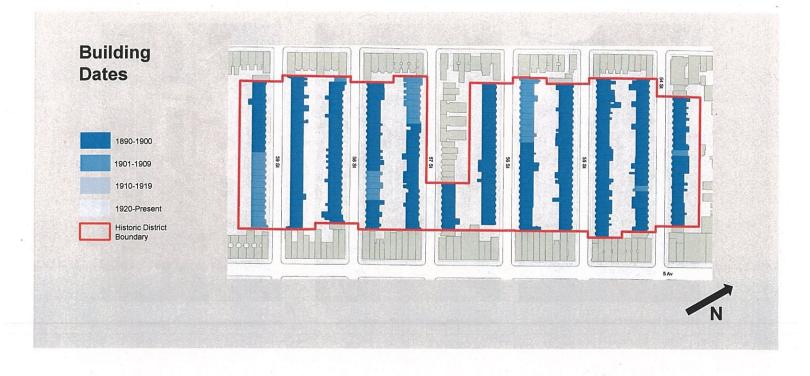
#### Building Integrity



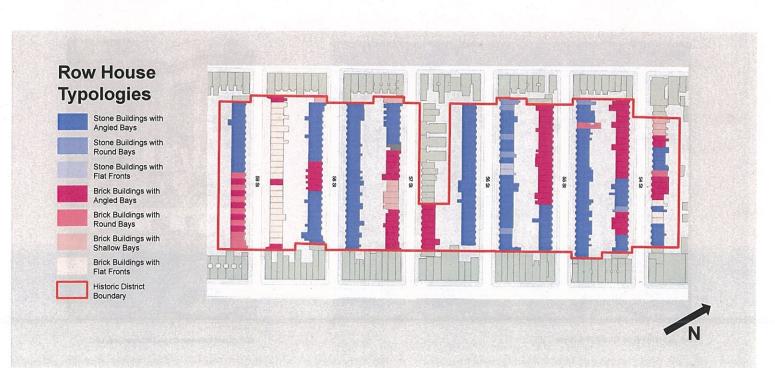
















54th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues, LPC



 $55^{th}$  Street between  $4^{th}$  and  $5^{th}$  Avenues, LPC



56th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues, LPC



Sunset Park Historic Districts Designated June 18, 2019



56th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues, LPC

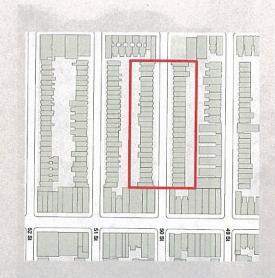


56th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues, LPC



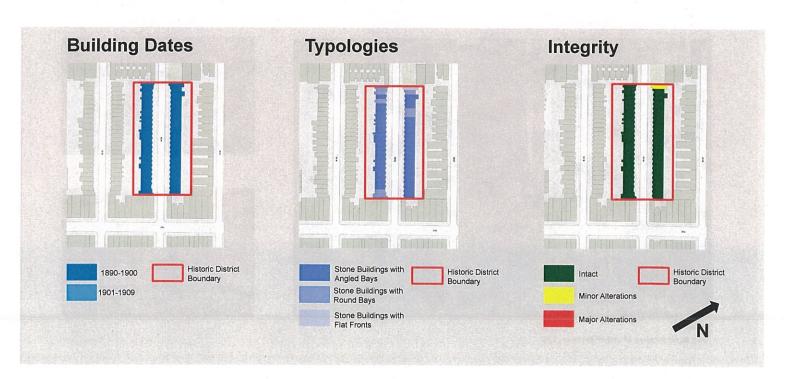
#### Sunset Park -50<sup>th</sup> Street Historic District

Historic District Boundary



















50th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues, LPC



Sunset Park Historic Districts Designated June 18, 2019



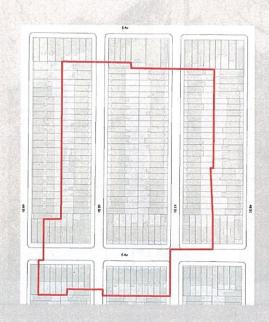


50th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues , LPC



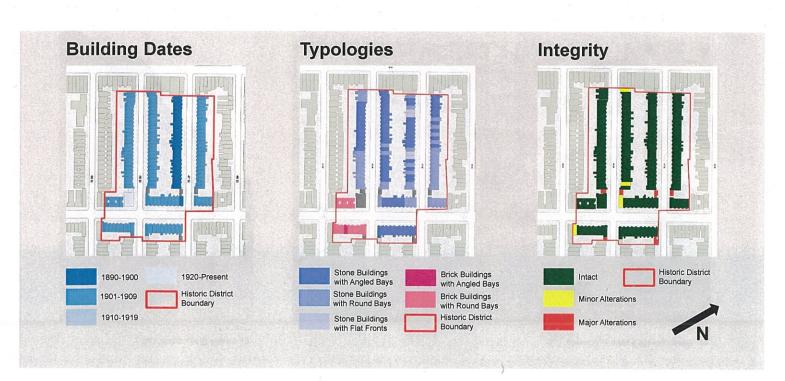


Historic District Boundary















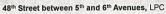


47th Street between 5th and 6th Avenues, LPC



Sunset Park Historic Districts Designated June 18, 2019





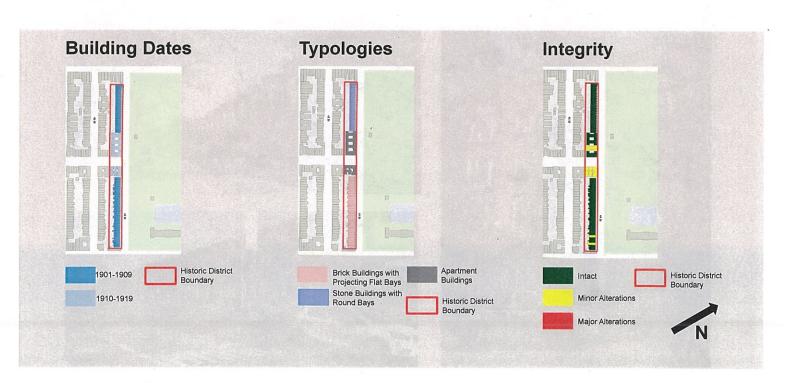


6th Avenue @ 47th Street, LPC



# Sunset Park North Historic District Historic District Boundary







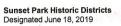






44th Street between 5th and 7th Avenues , LPC



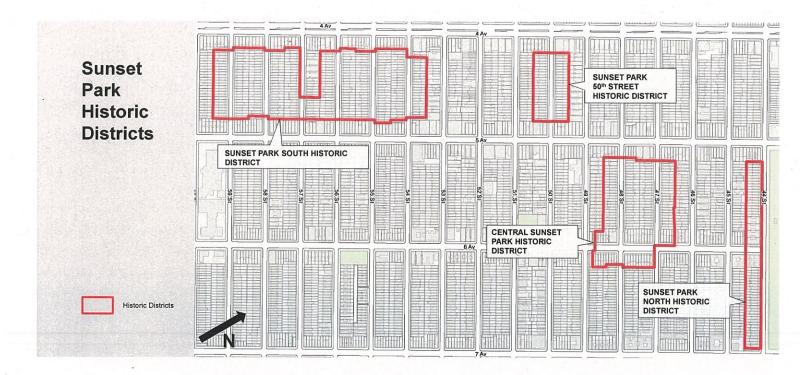












#### THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

L.U. 527

776-Myrtle Avenue Supportive Housing Loan Program September 18, 2019

(Cornegy) Land Use No. 527 (C190353HAK) is related to a ULURP application regarding the development of three (3) City-owned vacant lots located at <u>Block</u>

1754, Lots 19, 20 and 22 in Brooklyn Council District 36 for a project known as

776-780 Myrtle Avenue. The application seeks UDAAP designation and project approval for the three (3) lots, as well as disposition approval for two (2) of the lots (Lot 20 and 22). One of the three lots (Lot 19) previously received approval for unrestricted disposition by the Board of Estimate in 1981, but was never sold and remains City-owned.

776-780 Myrtle Avenue is slated for development under HPD's Supportive Housing Loan Program (SHLP), which funds the rehabilitation and new construction of supportive housing for the homeless, people with special needs, and other persons of low income. The development team, IMPACCT Brooklyn, formerly known as Pratt Area Community Council, was selected through a competitive process (2013 NYC Supportive Housing RFQ). They will provide property management services as well as act as the supportive services provider.

#### THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

L.U. 527

776-Myrtle Avenue
Supportive Housing Loan Program

September 18, 2019

IMPACCT Brooklyn proposes to construct a nine-story building with a total of approximately fifty-nine (59) affordable rental units, plus a superintendent's unit and ground floor retail space.

Upon completion, the building will contain approximately 45 studios, eight (8) one-bedroom units, six (6) two-bedroom units, and one (1) two-bedroom unit for a superintendent. Under the SHLP guidelines, 60% (approximately 36) of the units will be affordable for homeless households referred from social service agencies such as the Department Homeless Services (DHS), and the remaining approximately twenty-three (23) units will be affordable rental units to be filled through HPD's marketing guidelines.

The target incomes for this project will be up to 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Supportive housing tenants will pay up to 30% of their income in rent. Affordable households earning up to 60% of AMI, or approximately \$44,820 for 1 person to \$57,660 for a 3-person household, will pay rents ranging from \$843 for a studio to \$1,290 for a two-bedroom. In response to community feedback, income averaging is being contemplated for this project, which would make households

#### THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

L.U. 527

776-Myrtle Avenue
Supportive Housing Loan Program

September 18, 2019

between 40% and 80% of AMI eligible, or households earning approximately \$29,880-\$59,760 for 1 person to \$38,440-\$57,660 for a 3-person household. If income averaging is used, rents will range from \$522 for a 40% AMI studio to \$1,843 for an 80% AMI two-bedroom.

Amenities to be included in the project include supportive services space open to all residents in the building, such as a shared rear courtyard, community room, green roof, laundry room, and enclosed bicycle storage, as well as approximately 3,000 square feet of ground floor commercial space.

In order to facilitate the development of the 776-780 Myrtle Avenue project, HPD is before the Landmarks subcommittee seeking approval of <u>Land Use. No. 527.</u>



Cesar Zuniga Chairperson

Jeremy Laufer District Manager Eric Adams
Borough President

September 17, 2019

Hon. Adrienne Adams Chair NYC Council Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses City Hall New York, New York 10007

Dear Councilwoman Adams:

Community Board 7 is pleased to once again share its unequivocal support for the designation of four areas within the Sunset Park community as historic districts. The creation of these four districts, Sunset Park North, Central Sunset Park, Sunset Park South and Sunset Park 50<sup>th</sup> Street, will be the realization of the vision and tremendous work done by the Sunset Park Landmarks Committee (SPLC), whose initial proposal was unanimously supported by our Board in March of 2014. We recognize the grass root advocacy and hundreds of hours of work SPLC undertook and share their enthusiasm as we ask for the City Council's support.

In the five years since the board resolution, more row houses have been lost, largely to corporate developers whose interests lie not in the character of Sunset Park, but in maximizing their profits by focusing on building envelopes and floor area ratios. When they view the uplands of Sunset Park, developers do not see brownstones built for livability and resilience, they see greenbacks and a quick return on investment. And so irreparable changes and streetscapes have been irreversibly altered. Sunset Park's built environment (and potential for additional large scale change) has occurred at such a rapid pace that the community's sense of place is threatened.

In the past Community Board 7 has supported large scale contextual rezoning to try to prevent the out-of-scale developments that spring up in many parts of our community. Unfortunately, this has not prevented out-of-character development, which jeopardizes defining, unifying characteristics of our neighborhood. Typically, developers do not take the historic character and beauty of our 100+ year-old homes into account, as they seek maximum profit from the property.

4201 Fourth Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11232 (718) 854-0003 FAX (718) 436-1142 E-mail: bk07@cb.nyc.gov

Twitter: @BKCB7 Facebook Page: Board Seven Brooklyn Serving Sunset Park, Greenwood and Windsor Terrace We understand that SPLC's original proposal has been split into four districts in the interest of congruity. However, we note that development in our community has accelerated in the five years since our Board voted our support and we are greatly concerned that further delay in the approval of these four historic districts leaves them without protection and future development within their defined boundaries could eventually mean that these four areas are no longer congruous. Therefore, we ask that the Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritimes Use and the entire NYC Council support these four historic district designations within Sunset Park without delay.

We thank you for the opportunity to share our Board's opinion on these districts and we look forward to celebrating their designation and recognition of Sunset Park's history.

Sincerely

Ceasar Zuniga Chairperson Jeremy Laufer District Manager

cc:

Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker, New York City Council

Hon. Carlos Menchaca, Councilman

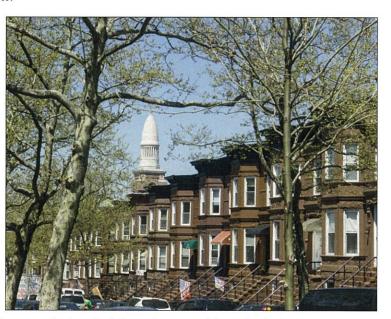
## Highlights of Sunset Park

Sunset Park's aesthetically pleasing and well-proportioned houses were constructed for the working and middle classes as an "architecture for the masses" to uplift and inspire.



44th Street between 5th and 6th Avenues.





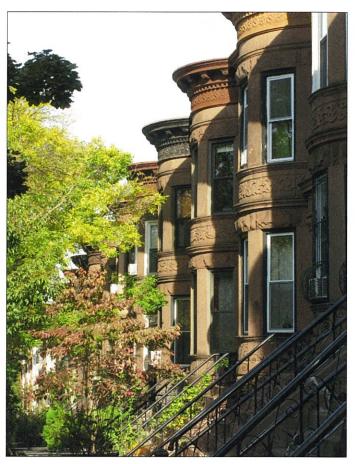
Left: 50th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues. Right: 43rd Street between 4th and 5th Avenues.



47th Street between 5th and 6th Avenues.



55th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues.



47th Street between 5th and 6th Avenues.



59th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues.

#### Historically insensitive redevelopment

In recent years disturbing threats to the neighborhood's historic character have emerged. Every year more and more two- and three-family homes are irreparably altered with historically insensitive changes.



Below: 6th Avenue between 54th and 55th Streets.

and 55th Streets.

Above: 6th Avenue between 54th



Below: 59th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues.





6th Avenue between 54th and 55th Streets.



42nd Street between 4th and 5th Avenues.



49th Street between 7th and 8th Avenues.



48th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues.

Jan Hudis-Jinewer 554 48m St., Brooklyn M 11220

The landmarking initiative before you today represents a unique opportunity to celebrate the built environment of Sunset Park by protecting blocks that best represent the neighborhoods historic contribution to Brooklyn and New York City. The four Historic Districts designated by the LPC instill a sense of place, history, and pride for all who live, work, or simply stroll in Sunset Park.

This proposal is the culmination of an amazing neighborhood effort to preserve the architectural integrity of a small portion of Sunset Park. I am very fortunate to live on a block that is still visually cohesive and showcases the architectural form and beauty that creates the type of beautiful streetscape that landmarking seeks to preserve. My husband and I were block captains for this effort and with the help of neighbors who speak the many languages spoken on our block we had conversations about this initiative with residents of every home. Without exception we heard overwhelming support for preservation efforts, as our neighbors expressed dismay over the architectural changes being made on surrounding blocks as stoops, cornices, and lintels are replaced, rooftop additions are built, grand parlor floor windows are diminished in size with brick in-fill, and entire stone facades are replaced by brick or tile. In the most disturbing instances we see entire houses being demolished and replaced with out-of-context and out-of-scale new buildings.

When such changes happen to even a single building, the impact reverberates up and down the block, diminishing the visual glory of neighboring buildings and forever altering a block that stood in harmony for more than a century. Sunset Park is in danger of losing its sense of place and its neighborhood feel. These characteristics that make our wonderful neighborhood special and unique, foster a sense of authentic human attachment and belonging. They inspire us to care for

our built environment and with their preservation will contribute to a legacy of community history and pride on which future generations will build. I encourage you to support us in our efforts to preserve the streetscapes identified for landmarking as a legacy for communities that follow.

DISTRICT OFFICE

254 EAST 4th STREET

NEW YORK, NY 10009

(212) 677-1077

FAX: (212) 677-1990

CLRivera@council.nyc.gov



CITY HALL OFFICE

250 BROADWAY, ROOM 1734

NEW YORK, NY 10007

(212) 788-7366

FAX: (212) 442-2738

# CARLINA RIVERA COUNCIL MEMBER, 2<sup>nd</sup> DISTRICT CITY OF NEW YORK

September 18, 2019

Testimony Regarding LU 0483-2019, LU 0484-2019, LU 0485-2019, LU 0486-2019, LU0487-2019 at the Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting, and Maritime Uses

Chair Adams and Committee Members:

I want to thank the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) for designating these buildings as individual landmarks and I reiterate my support for the designations being voted on today. Protecting these beautiful, historic architectural resources well into the future and regardless of subsequent zoning regimes is an important achievement for the residents of District 2.

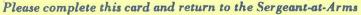
Most recently, LPC and the City Council moved to designate another set of buildings in my district on the same corridor. With the addition of these buildings, constructed between 1876 and 1902, we further preserve and acknowledge lower Broadway's legacy as a center of New York City's manufacturing might during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Originally built as showrooms and lofts for the textile and garment industries, these monuments to our commercial history have since housed film companies, artist studios, and publishers and bookstores – the broad range of tenancies that make this city such an exciting place to visit, live and work.

These buildings have captured the economic and creative diversity of the City of New York, as well as the United States, through its historic and revolutionary commercial establishments. The historic and socioeconomic role of these buildings and their manufacturing, cultural and artistic contributions should never be under threat from a wrecking ball.

This unique grouping that you are voting on today was the result of a study the community, advocates, and I requested of the central and eastern parts of Greenwich Village. We have long sought recognition of its history and the designation of these individual sites would represent a significant step in honoring their work, almost doubling the individual designations off this stretch of Broadway and University Place. I also believe that beyond this review and designation, LPC has demonstrated through this process a willingness to engage with landlords and operators, providing them with clear paths towards a more seamless transition into landmark ownership.

For these reasons, I ask your support in favor of this designation.

	Appearance Card			
	speak on Int. No Res. No			
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Name: Inthony tabre
Address:
I represent: Director of Community & Interger Affairs - LPC
Address:
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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 527 Res. No.
in favor in opposition
Date: 9/18/19
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Name: Lacey Touber
Address:
I represent: HPD
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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: 9/18/2019
(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: LYNN WASSIMU
Address: 526 47th ST BRUNKMN MY
I represent: LEADER OF SUNSET PARK LANDMARKS COMMITTER
Address:
THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Appearance Card
I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. Suns of Parks. No.
in favor in opposition
Date: 441 18, 2019
(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Juste Havire
Address: 559-475+ BK4-14.1
I represent: Superior Park Horrison dant
Address: 559- 47st Billy N.4
Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

Sunset Park Appearance Card I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_ in favor in opposition Address: 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: \_ I represent: Address: THE CITY OF NEW YORK Appearance Card I intend to appear and speak on Int. Nospiestoric DictRes. No. in favor in opposition (PLEASE PRINT)



I represent:

Address: