



Diane Collier
Chairperson

Angel D. Mescain
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
1664 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10035
TEL: (212) 831-8929/30
FAX: (212) 369-3571
www.cb11m.org

RESOLUTION

Date: October 20, 2015

Committee of Origin: Land Use, Landmarks & Planning

Full Board Vote: 41 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Absentions, 0 Present/Not Voting

WHEREAS, the New York City Landmarks Law (the “**Landmarks Law**”) was enacted in 1965 and signed into law by Mayor Robert F. Wagner in response to the recurring loss of historically significant buildings, notably the original Pennsylvania Station, and in order to mandate the protection of historic resources as part of a comprehensive urban planning process and a “public necessity” that is “required in the interest of the health, prosperity, safety and welfare of the people”;

WHEREAS, the legitimacy of the Landmarks Law and its public purpose has been upheld by several court decisions, including, most prominently, the historic 1978 United States Supreme Court decision in *Penn Central Transportation Co. v. New York City*, which prohibited the alteration to and construction of a building on top of New York City’s iconic Grand Central Station;

WHEREAS, the Landmarks Law has helped to guarantee that New York City’s built environment and awe-inspiring urban landscape remains diverse and vibrant;

WHEREAS, the Landmarks Law is credited as (i) being instrumental in the rebirth of New York City in the late 20th Century, (ii) fostering pride in neighborhoods that resulted in preservation efforts in every borough, (iii) helping residents develop communities, (iv) fostering the renovation and reuse of existing structures in order to bring new economic life to older structures and (v) strengthening the economic vitality of neighborhoods throughout New York City;

WHEREAS, the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (the “**LPC**”) has a laudable 50-year record of both carefully considering designations of buildings and historic districts as landmarks and of the thorough review of proposed alterations to these designated landmarks and the LPC continues to serve New York City and its residents by helping to create and maintain a vibrant, livable city;

WHEREAS, preservation stabilizes diverse communities and protects the character of the many diverse neighborhoods of New York City, allowing these neighborhoods to flourish and not be lost or forgotten;

WHEREAS, by promoting preservation over demolition, the LPC's efforts have been a boon to many communities as they have resulted in the preservation of affordable housing, including saving hundreds of apartments subject to rent regulation;

WHEREAS, preservation also encourages adaptive reuse and in so doing promotes sustainability and, further, a focus on repairing and renovating, in lieu of the demolition of buildings, serves to save money, fuel and other resources, thereby curtailing waste, debris, noise and excess vehicular traffic;

WHEREAS, preservation promotes investment and helps to generate jobs in the conservation, reconstruction, manufacturing, film and television, tourism, hospitality and other industries;

WHEREAS, as of 2015, there are more than 33,000 landmarked properties in New York City, most of which are located in 114 historic districts and 20 historic district extensions and these landmarked properties include 1,347 individual landmarks, 117 interior landmarks and 10 scenic landmarks;

WHEREAS, East Harlem has lost much of its physical history to neglect, abandonment, demolition and recent redevelopment and such loss threatens the neighborhood's unique culture;

WHEREAS, East Harlem is home to only twenty individual landmarks, or less than 1.5% of all of the landmarks in New York City;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 11 ("CB11") recognizes and celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Landmarks Law for the ongoing value of preservation and historic designation to our community's—and our city's—rich and distinctive history, character and heritage; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CB11 urges elected officials to support and defend the Landmarks Law; to ensure the integrity, independence and integral mission of a strong LPC; and to protect the distinctive landmarks in our community, including those that are officially designated and those that remain unprotected; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CB11 urges the LPC to engage in ongoing dialogue and partnership with CB11 and its residents, businesses and friends to advance the designation of historic districts and structures throughout East Harlem.