



Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation

252 East 11th Street
New York, New York 10005

(212) 475-9585
fax: (212) 475-9582
www.gvshp.org

Executive Director
Andrew Berman

President of the Board
Arthur Levin

Vice-Presidents
Leslie Mason
Kate Bostock Shefferman

Secretary/Treasurer
Katherine Schoonover

Trustees
Mary Ann Arisman
John Bacon
Penelope Bateau
Tom Birchard
Elizabeth Ely
Cassie Glover
Justine Leguizamo
Ruth McCoy
Andrew S. Paul
Cynthia Penney
Robert Rogers
Allan G. Sperling
Judith Stonehill
Fred Wistow
Linda Yowell
P. Anthony Zunino III

Advisors
Kent Barwick
Joan K. Davidson
Christopher Forbes
Margaret Halsey Gardiner
Elizabeth Gilmore
Carol Greitzer
Tony Hiss
Martin Hutner
James Stewart Polshek
Elinor Hutner
Henry Hope Reed
Martica Sawin Fitch
Anne-Marie Sumner
Calvin Trillin
Jean-Claude van Halbe
George Vellonakis
Vicki Weiner
Anthony C. Wood

February 6, 2013

Hon. Christine C. Quinn
Speaker, New York City Council
224 West 30th Street, Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001

Dear Speaker Quinn,

In light of the City Planning Commission's approval of the Hudson Square Rezoning today, we urge you in the strongest of terms not to approve the rezoning unless the City also agrees to landmark the adjacent proposed South Village Historic District, which will be so heavily impacted by the proposed rezoning.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission pledged to consider the entire proposed South Village Historic District for landmark four years ago, but has thus far failed to do so. It is particularly important that they do so now, given the extreme and increasing development pressure this neighborhood is under, and the number of buildings in this historic neighborhood which have been or are slated to be demolished and replaced with out-of-scale new development.

The City's own environmental analysis of the proposed Hudson Square rezoning admits that the proposed South Village Historic District is "landmark-eligible." It also however admits that if the Hudson Square rezoning is approved without landmark designation, the proposed South Village Historic District will suffer a "significant adverse impact."

Community Board #2 in its resolution regarding the proposed Hudson Square rezoning also called for the rezoning not to be approved unless the proposed South Village Historic District is landmarked, given the profound impact it would have upon that neighborhood.

Designation of the proposed South Village Historic District would be very easy for the City, given the broad level of local support designation has, and given that the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation has provided them with research and documentation of the history of every building in the proposed district -- time-consuming work the City must typically do itself before it can designate. In the past, the City has linked rezonings with landmarking of adjacent historic areas to ensure that those areas are not negatively impacted, such as in West Chelsea and Prospect Heights, and we believe they should do so here as well.

As the Speaker of the City Council, and with the Hudson Square rezoning application before you, you are in a unique position to compel the City to finally keep its word and move ahead with landmarking South Village. As someone who has in the past supported landmark designation for the South Village, we hope that you will use your considerable leverage to get the City to act. But if the City refuses to landmark the South Village, we urge you not to approve the Hudson Square rezoning, given the

profound impact it would have in accelerating the destruction of this fragile, historic area.

Sincerely,



Andrew Berman, Executive Director
Greenwich Village Society for
Historic Preservation



Richard Blodgett, President
Charlton Street Block



Carl Rosenstein
Broome Street Block Association
Association



Micki McGee Kenny Ross
South Village Neighborhood



Silvia Beam, President
VanDam Street Block Association



Sean Sweeney, Director
SoHo Alliance