

# Greenwich Village Block Associations

## 20 Bank Street, New York, NY 10014

Bedford, Barrow & Commerce  
Bedford Downing  
Bleecker Area Merchants & Residents  
Carmine Street  
Central Village (Cornelia, Barrow, Jones)  
Charles Street  
Charlton Street  
Christopher Street Block & Merchants  
Christopher Street East  
East 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
East 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
East 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Far West 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Grove Street  
Horatio Street  
Jane Street  
MacDougal Alley Assoc.  
MacDougal Street North  
Mercer Street  
Middle West 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Middle West 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minetta  
Morton Street  
Mulry Angle/W. 11th Street  
Perry Street  
St. Luke's Place  
Upper West 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Washington Place  
Washington Square Village  
Waverly Place  
Waverly-Bank 11 Neighbors  
West Houston Street  
West Eighth Street  
West 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
West 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
West 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
West 13<sup>th</sup> Street -100 Block

February 4, 2012  
Honorable Christine Quinn  
224 West 30<sup>th</sup> Street (Suite 1206)  
New York, NY 10001  
Dear Speaker Quinn,

The Greenwich Village Block Associations (GVBA) is a community wide coalition dedicated to preserving and improving the quality of life for residents of our historic neighborhood. Recently, the New York City Planning Commission approved the Hudson Square Rezoning. This re-zoning is the subject of local concern due to its impact upon its neighbors. Villagers have long urged that the creation of the South Village Historic District is necessary to protect our community.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission agreed to consider the entire proposed South Village Historic District for designation four years ago, but has done nothing to move forward. It is critically important that they do so now, given the increasing development pressure this neighborhood endures as well as the number of buildings in this historic neighborhood that have been or are slated to be demolished/ 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 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 called for the rezoning not to be approved unless the proposed South Village Historic District is landmarked, given the negative impact it would have upon that neighborhood.

Designation of the proposed South Village Historic District has been made simple, given the broad level of local support and given that research and documentation of the history of every building in the proposed district has been done – time-consuming work the City must typically do itself. In the past, the City has linked re-zonings with landmarking adjacent historic areas to ensure that those areas are not negatively impacted. GVBA believes they it makes sense to landmark the South Village now.

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 move ahead with landmarking the South Village. As someone who has supported landmark designation for the South Village, we trust that you will use your considerable leverage to get the City to act. 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. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Dorato  
Executive Director