



**Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation**

232 East 11th Street
New York, New York 10003

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

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March 26, 2012

Hon. Robert Tierney, Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Tierney:

Following on the announcement by the Preservation League of New York State to designate the South Village one of its "Seven to Save," one of the seven most significant endangered historic sites in New York State, we are writing to urge the Landmarks Preservation Commission to move ahead with designation of the entirety of the South Village.

The South Village's historic and architectural significance is indisputable. Its intact record of housing built or modified for late 19th and early 20th century immigrant New Yorkers, of groundbreaking institutions built to serve these same communities, and of theaters, studios, cafes, music venues, and performance spaces which served as the home or launching pad for some of the 20th century's most important writers, artists, and musicians, is virtually unparalleled.

We are, of course, thankful for the LPC's designation of the first third of this vital neighborhood in 2010. However, we are concerned that no action has since been taken on the remainder. As you are well aware, many significant sites throughout the South Village have been compromised or lost, including the Circle in the Square Theatre, Provincetown Playhouse and Apartments, Sullivan Street Playhouse, the Tunnel Garage, and countless houses, stables, tenements and storefronts. With proposals for rezonings by NYU and in Hudson Square on either side of the proposed South Village Historic District, now would be the right time for the Commission to move, as these proposals may increase development pressure on this fragile area.

As you know, extensive primary source research and documentation on each of the buildings in the proposed district has already been done by GVSHP and is available to the LPC. Elected officials, historic preservation organizations, community groups, and local institutions and business owners support designation of the entire proposed South Village Historic District, making this an easy designation for the Commission to consider. It is critical that the LPC move forward with landmark designation for the remainder of the South Village before more of its irreplaceable architecture is gone forever.

We look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,



Andrew Berman
Executive Director
Greenwich Village Society
for Historic Preservation



Jay DiLorenzo
Executive Director
Preservation League of
New York State



Simeon Bankoff
Executive Director
Historic Districts Council