March 29, 2012

Andrew Berman
Executive Director
Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation
232 East 11th Street
New York, NY 10003

Dear Andrew:

Thank you for writing regarding the recently announced plan to preserve and adaptively reuse the Reiss Building as part of the approval by the City Council Land Use committee for the Rudin development of the St. Vincent’s east campus.

As you know, the Reiss building is within the Greenwich Village Historic District. Any changes to the Reiss building, including this plan for retention and adaptive reuse, must be reviewed and approved by the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC). This process includes review by the Community Board 2 Landmarks and Public Aesthetics Committee and the full Community Board, and a Landmarks Preservation Commission hearing, all of which are open for public testimony.

Rudin Management will be filing an application to LPC shortly which will seek to preserve, modify, and adapt the existing Reiss building. The application will include revisions to the rooftop; revisions to the building façade including changes at the ground floor to facilitate the entrance and exit to the garage, the main entrance, and the masonettes; changes to the windows on the upper floors; demolition of the structure behind the first structural bay; and rebuilding the rear portions of the building. If the necessary approvals are obtained from LPC, Rudin Management will implement the revised design. The Speaker’s office will keep the community informed throughout this process, and ensure that the specific plans to retain Reiss are public knowledge once they are presented to LPC.

Sincerely,

Christine C. Quinn
Speaker