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May 1, 2015

Honorable Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair  
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor  
New York City, New York 10007

Dear Chair Srinivasan,

The West End Preservation Society briefed me on the latest version of the proposed Riverside-West End Historic District Ext II. You can understand my astonishment to learn that this Commission has now decided the entire length of the west side of Broadway, more than 20 buildings, is no longer included in this historic district. I do not understand how this change can be justified against the careful consideration of the former Landmarks Commission just four years ago. I'm surprised that the historic district extension criteria is so radically different—this new mapping deserves significant discussion and review.

As the Councilmember representing District 6, my constituents make up the entirety of the West End-Collegiate Historic Districts, the Riverside-West End Historic Districts, and the proposed Riverside-West End Historic District Ext II. These designations have been a priority in my office as my involvement with the three West End historic districts dates back to their original proposal, when I was Chair of Community Board 7.

I am particularly troubled by the carving out of PS 75, the Emily Dickinson School, and the block from 95th-96th from West End Avenue to Riverside Drive. This will abruptly interrupt the flow of the designation of West End Avenue, which was the sole purpose of the initial RFE. It will also leave an entire city block at the mercy of future development, right in the middle of a wonderful historic streetscape. These changes are significant and regardless of their reasoning, demand a community review. It looks to me as if this block is being held for development and a

full explanation is in order. The expectation has been that the proposal by LPC four years ago was the proposal under consideration.

I am deeply vested in the full breadth of the proposal from LPC four years ago and hope you will reconsider your decision to crop the historic district and reinstate those buildings.

Sincerely,

*Helen Rosenthal*