



THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
CITY HALL  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO  
SPEAKER

TELEPHONE  
(212) 788-7210

June 19, 2015

Hon. Meenakshi Srinivasan  
Chair  
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
1 Centre Street  
New York, NY 10007

**Re: Riverside West End Historic District Extension II**

Dear Chair Srinivasan:

We write with regard to the upcoming June 23<sup>rd</sup> vote by the Landmarks Preservation Commission concerning the designation of the Riverside-West End Historic District Extension II. It is our understanding that your staff will recommend to the Commission several changes to the district boundaries originally proposed, studied and considered at its October 25, 2011, public hearing. In particular, we understand that a significant portion of the block bounded by 95<sup>th</sup> and 96<sup>th</sup> Streets, West End Avenue and Riverside Drive, which houses both a middle school, PS 75, and its playground and is within the study area along the west side of Broadway, is recommended for removal from the historic district. We understand as well that the buildings west of Broadway are also recommended for removal.

This historic district extension, as originally proposed, enjoyed widespread support from the local community, as well as critical stakeholders. Moreover, at the public hearing in 2011 the Commission heard testimony from local and state elected officials, as well as the public, supporting the proposal, as they believed that this designation in its entirety would protect the neighborhood from the threat of inappropriate construction and development.

We share the concerns we have heard from community stakeholders, including the West End Preservation Society – an organization that has played an active role in the Commission's prior designations in the Riverside-West End area – that the removal of these properties from the historic district leaves them vulnerable to possible out-of-context development and may threaten the fabric of the historic streetscape of the neighborhood. Inclusion of these properties in this district extension would provide critical input and oversight on future development by both the Commission and the local community. While we are adamant that the block bounded by 95<sup>th</sup> and 96<sup>th</sup> Streets, West End Avenue and Riverside Drive be added back into the map, we also believe that the buildings west of Broadway should be included in the map as well.

We urge you and the other Commissioners to consider these concerns, as well as those of the preservationist and local communities, in your deliberations of this district's extension and engage with them before you render your decision.

Sincerely,



**Melissa Mark-Viverito**  
Speaker



**Helen Rosenthal**  
Chair, Committee on Contracts