

Tobi Bergman, *Chair*
Terri Cude, *First Vice Chair*
Susan Kent, *Second Vice Chair*
Bob Gormley, *District Manager*



Antony Wong, *Treasurer*
Keen Berger, *Secretary*
Susan Wittenberg, *Assistant Secretary*

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE
NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

www.cb2manhattan.org

P: 212-979-2272 F: 212-254-5102 E: info@cb2manhattan.org

Greenwich Village ✦ Little Italy ✦ SoHo ✦ NoHo ✦ Hudson Square ✦ Chinatown ✦ Gansevoort Market

December 1, 2014

Meenakshi Srinivasan, *Chair*
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre St., 9th Floor North
New York, New York 10007

Dear Chair Srinivasan:

Community Board 2 Manhattan urges the Commission not to move ahead with planned blanket de-calandaring of sites proposed for individual landmark designation prior to 2010.

We believe that the lack of opportunity for public and community board input in this proposed de-calandaring, and the lack of consideration of the merits of each individual site, runs counter to the goals of transparency, public engagement, and protection of our city's architectural and cultural heritage that the Commission seeks to meet. This broad action affects sites in our district and thereby prevents our board from being able to fulfill its charter-mandated responsibilities to exercise initial review of agency proposals and to assist and advise the Commission.

We specifically oppose the de-calandaring of the two sites located in CB2.

57 Sullivan Street is a federal style house built in 1817, making it one of the oldest surviving houses in Lower Manhattan. The 2002 proposal for individual landmark designation by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation and the NY Landmarks Conservancy in 2002 enjoyed strong support for Community Board #2, local elected officials, preservation organizations, and neighbors.

The former McCreery & Co lofts at 801-807 Broadway were one of the first buildings in New York considered for landmark designation. While they were altered with a rooftop addition when converted to residences in the early 1970's, that alteration in fact added one of the most significant layers of history to the building, which merits recognition. The conversion of this cast iron loft building to residential use -- previously illegal under fire and building codes -- was only made possible by changes in the structure of the building and of the relevant rules and regulations to accommodate such changes which were done for the first time here. These changes made possible the residential conversion of scores of manufacturing loft buildings throughout Lower Manhattan and New York, utterly transforming the landscape of our city over the last four decades.

We are unaware of a precedent for de-calandaring without consideration of individual merits or of any authorization for such action under the rules of the Commission. While we recognize there may be good reason to seek to de-calendar items after an extended period, the practice needs to be carefully considered because it will encourage some owners to seek delays as a way of avoiding designation. In any case, the

action may effectively disqualify the property from future reconsideration and therefore is a permanent action that deserves and requires process equal to that afforded the action it reverses.

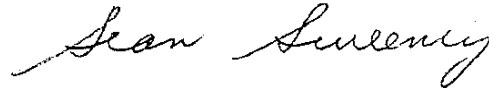
Community Board 2 urges the Commission to consider the merits of these properties individually through the public hearing process before decisions are made about their status.

Thank you for your consideration of our outlook on this important matter.

Respectfully,



Tobi Bergman
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 2



Sean Sweeney
Chair
CB2 Landmarks Committee

c: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
Hon. Daniel L. Squadron, NY State Senator
Hon. Sheldon Silver, NY Assembly Speaker
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NY Assembly Member
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Man. Borough President
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member
Hon. Rosie Mendez, Council Member
Hon. Corey Johnson, Council Member
Jenny Fernandez, Landmarks Preservation Commission