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**Gale A. Brewer, Borough President**

March 23, 2021

**Testimony of Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer  
to the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Cal. No. 2 – 70 Fifth Avenue (LP-2650)**

Good morning, my name is Conor Allerton, I am a planner for Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, and I am here to testify on her behalf.

I thank Chair Carroll and LPC Commissioners for this opportunity to testify in support of the landmark designation at 70 Fifth Avenue, also known as the Educational Building. The landmarking of this building marks an important step in the effort to preserve the area south of Union Square, a neighborhood of unique historical and architectural significance.

70 Fifth Avenue, a building constructed in 1912 in the Beaux Arts style, is the former headquarters of the NAACP, The Crisis Magazine, and an array of progressive and civil rights organizations. Critical early battles against racial discrimination in voting, housing, and employment were fought out of offices at 70 Fifth Avenue, while The Crisis provided a key literary voice for these efforts.

Additional organizations that called the Educational Building home include the ACLU, the AFT, Students for a Democratic Society, the League for Industrial Democracy, the Women's Peace Party, the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, and the Near East Foundation. Movements for civil rights, women's rights, democracy, and important social struggles abroad all shared this site as a headquarters or major office through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The significance of the site is both national and international and thus it should be preserved.

I also urge you to expand your preservation efforts south of Union Square as proposed by Village Preservation and many other advocates. This area has been home to countless artists, publishers, and organizers, and the preservation of 70 Fifth Avenue is emblematic of what should extend across such a historically significant part of Lower Manhattan.

Therefore, I urge the designation of 70 Fifth Avenue as a landmark.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this application.