



June 17, 2016

Hon. Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building, 9th floor
One Centre Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Srinivasan,

We write you today in regards to the proposed redesign of 85-89 Jane Street (LPC #18-1551) located in the Greenwich Village Historic District. As presented to Manhattan Community Board 2 (CB2) on May 19, 2016, this plan has several glaring flaws that we hope the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) will take into serious consideration at the June 21st public hearing.

First among our concerns is that the plan calls for two large towers at heights of 80 and 90 feet, one of which would be almost entirely translucent. These heights are completely out of scale with the low-rise structures that are notable of this historic district. The choice of materials is highly problematic, as an entirely translucent façade for the 80 foot structure does not allude to any historic nor architectural era of the district, and in our opinion, it will only serve as a most unwelcome and imposing nightlight for nearby residents. This structure will pose a serious break from the surrounding context and it could very well impose light into the homes of neighbors, potentially harming their ability to sleep.

Furthermore, the applicant's plans call for the removal of the existing parapet and the creation of a 40 foot street wall, which we find to be unnecessary and out of context. Should the applicant want to build a higher street wall than the existing parapet, we urge the LPC to accept the suggestion from the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation that allows for a setback wall on top of the existing parapet. We feel this would appropriately preserve the existing structure while creating the extra height desired by the applicant.

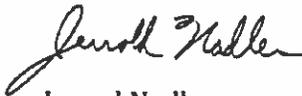
We readily concede that there are some aspects of the plan that are acceptable and may even be welcome additions to the community. The restoration of the façade to an original buff colored

brick and the creation of a landscaped rooftop garden are appropriate, and we support CB2's recommendation that they be approved.

However, we very strongly urge the LPC to deny certain elements of the proposal that are clearly unacceptable to the community. Namely, the large towers and the street wall design should be entirely rethought. This is not just our conclusion, but also that of Manhattan Community Board 2, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, numerous local organizations and the large group of community members who attended CB2's Land-Use Committee meeting on the proposal.

Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss this matter further. We thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jerrod Nadler
Member of Congress



Gale Brewer
Manhattan Borough President



Brad Hoylman
State Senator



Deborah J. Glick
Assembly Member



Corey Johnson
Council Member