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Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

November 15, 2016

**Testimony of Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer on
44 West 95th Street (Certificate of Appropriateness Application No. 19-1642)**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today in regard to an application (#19-1642) for a Certificate of Appropriateness currently before the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC). This application requests approval for the construction of rooftop and rear additions to an existing Renaissance Revival style rowhouse located at 44 West 95th Street (Block 1208, Lot 51) in the Upper West Side/Central Park West Historic District. It is my understanding that Manhattan Community Board 7 (CB7) voted to oppose this project as currently designed. I too find this project problematic and am opposed.

CB7 issued a resolution dated November 1, 2016 stating their support for the façade work and opposition to the roof and rear yard enlargements. I share the board's concerns about the proposed additions. Primarily, I am concerned that the scale of the proposed enlargement for this rowhouse will overwhelm its existing scale and that of its adjacent rowhouses. While I am not opposed wholesale to alterations where they are reasonable and in keeping with the character of the district, I do not yet believe the additions as designed meet that standard.

I urge the LPC to work with the applicant for this property to revise the proposal to reflect and respond to the concerns of CB7, and encourage the applicant to return to the board with a revised proposal that does such. Thank you for your consideration.