



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

1 Centre Street, 19th floor, New York, NY 10007  
(212) 669-8300 p (212) 669-4306 f  
431 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027  
(212) 531-1609 p (212) 531-4615 f  
[www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov](http://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov)

**Gale A. Brewer, Borough President**

December 6, 2016

## **Testimony of Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer on Proposed Designation of Morningside Heights Historic District (LP-2584)**

I am Basha Gerhards, Deputy Director of Land Use, and I am here on behalf of Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer to express our resounding support for the designation of the Morningside Heights Historic District located in Manhattan's Community Board 9.

At the first introductory meeting in October 2014 between the Borough President and the newly appointed LPC Chair Meenakshi Srinivasan, we discussed the opportunities for preservation equity in the Borough of Manhattan and the hope that the designation work of the LPC would bring it north of 96<sup>th</sup> Street. Since that meeting, we are thankful for the Northern Manhattan designations of the Mount Morris Park Historic District Extension, the Uptown backlog properties that are winding their way through the public process to designation, the work the LPC will undertake as part of the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan, the designation shortly of the exceptional Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, which we support, and the hard work that brought us here today.

The proposed and carefully crafted district before you today deserves to be designated on both historic and architectural merit. The boundaries encompass a cohesive collection of structures notable for their distinct development period. Most of the structures were completed from 1900-1910 as a direct result of the IRT expansion in 1904. It is therefore important to maintain and preserve the historic integrity of the proposed district. While 97% of the district is residential in nature and use, its institutional buildings provide an added depth of architectural character and are an important part of the development story of this district.

Therefore, we urge you to designate the proposed Morningside Heights Historic District.

I want to express appreciation to the Morningside Heights Historic District Committee, especially Laura Friedman and Gregory Dietrich, Community Board 9, Councilmember Mark Levine, and Assemblymember Danny O'Donnell for their on-going advocacy for this designation, and I thank the LPC for your time and consideration on this matter.