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Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Borough President

August 3, 2026

Landmarks Preservation Commission
253 Broadway, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10007

RE: 257 Canal Street – SoHo Cast Iron Historic District Extension

Dear Chair Kersavage:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for the 257 Canal Street (LPC-26-12659) application for a Certificate of Appropriateness. This project would replace a non-contributing 2-story commercial building in the SoHo Cast Iron Historic District Extension with a thoughtfully designed and appropriately scaled 20-story building with 89 new permanently affordable apartments, including 53 units of supportive housing for youth aging out of foster care.

As with other recent applications before the LPC, I want to reiterate my support for affordable housing development across Manhattan, including that which was promised by the 2021 SoHo-NoHo Neighborhood Plan. This project is exemplary of the plan's potential, contributing a 100% permanently affordable housing while honoring the neighborhood's historic character. The applicant team, including Children's Village, has a long track record of affordable housing development in Manhattan, including the widely celebrated Eliza Apartments and Inwood Library, which I had the pleasure of visiting recently. I applaud the team's commitment to providing dignified affordable housing and wraparound services to some of our city's most vulnerable residents, and I am confident that the 89 apartments in this project will change the course of the lives of the New Yorkers fortunate enough to live there.

I agree with Community Board 2 (CB2) that demolition of the existing non-contributing building is appropriate. I also recognize that while the proposed building height of 225 feet is 50 feet below the 275 feet allowed by zoning (ZR 143-23(b)), the applicants are seeking a 34-foot increase in maximum base height from the Board of Standards and Appeals, and CB2 has highlighted reasonable opportunities for greater facade articulation that should be considered. I believe the design can be improved along those lines without compromising on the quantity, quality, or affordability of the proposed apartments.

I strongly support this application and believe the proposed project and the affordable housing it will contribute are not only appropriate for the historic district, but a welcome addition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad Hoylman-Sigal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brad Hoylman-Sigal
Manhattan Borough President