

Robert B. Tierney

From: Laurie Beckelman [Laurie.Beckelman@madmuseum.org]
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2004 5:07 PM
To: rtierney@lpc.nyc.gov
Subject: FW: Update: City Council Hearing on Landmarks Commission

It is nice when you have friends from within, cantbelieve it former chairs and commissioners, outrageous

-----Original Message-----

From: Suzanne Davis [mailto:Suzanne.Davis@jcdecauxna.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2004 5:01 PM
To: Laurie Beckelman
Subject: FW: Update: City Council Hearing on Landmarks Commission

Their version. See you shortly. sd

-----Original Message-----

From: LANDMARK WEST! [mailto:landmarkwest@landmarkwest.org]
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2004 4:57 PM
To: Undisclosed-Recipient;
Subject: Update: City Council Hearing on Landmarks Commission

City Council Hearing on Landmarks Evokes Passion and Substance

(For *Daily News* coverage, go to <http://www.nydailynews.com/10-21-2004/business/story/244324p-209375c.html> or scroll down to the bottom of this message.)

Hundreds of preservationists attempted to participate in yesterday's **City Council oversight hearing on the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC)**, which was held in a small room on the 16th floor of an office building (rather than at City Hall). People lined the walls, spilled out the door, were herded into a cafeteria next to the hearing room (where they could neither see nor hear the proceedings), and waited for admission on a line that snaked through the building's lobby. Many who came to deliver testimony were turned away at the front desk.

Those who did make it into the hearing room witnessed an outpouring of both passion and substance. The hearing began more than half an hour late at 3:30 PM and was (inexplicably) adjourned at 5:30 PM, leaving time for only brief public testimony.

But one speaker in particular, **Former LPC Commissioner Anthony M. Tung**, spoke for the majority when he cited "**serious failures in the performance of [the LPC].**" "These are long-standing problems, some growing worse in recent years, and to which neither the commission nor the mayor's office has responded." (See his full statement below.)

Other speakers included **Tom Wolfe, former LPC Chair Beverly Moss Spatt, former Council Member Ronnie Eldridge, and former Art Commission President Whitney North Seymour, Jr.**, all of whom reiterated that something is clearly wrong with the Landmarks process as it is implemented. Unfortunately, current LPC Chair Robert B. Tierney was not present to hear public testimony - he departed after delivering his own statement.

The Chair of the Council's Landmarks Subcommittee, Council Member Simcha Felder, who scheduled the hearing, expressed surprise that so many people took an interest in the administrative procedures of the LPC. He promised to hold a second hearing to take additional public testimony. **But time is of the essence!** Please write to Chair Felder (felder@council.nyc.ny.us) - especially if you tried to attend, but were not admitted - and let him know of your interest in participating in a second hearing. Also, please copy landmarkwest@landmarkwest.org so that we know you were there! We'll keep you posted on future dates...

OVERSIGHT HEARING ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES OF THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION

**Testimony before the Committee on Landmarks
of the New York City Council**

20 October 2004

Honorable Members of the Council,

My name is Anthony M. Tung and I live at 36 Cooper Square in Manhattan. I am a former member of the New York City

Landmarks Preservation Commission (serving as a Commissioner from 1978 to 1988), and author of *Preserving the World's Great Cities*-a study of conservation practice in 18 cities across the globe.

The report before you today sponsored by the Women's City Club: "The Landmarks Preservation Commission: Issues of Concern" is a thoughtful and measured document-an indicator of serious failures in the performance of that agency.

I have four brief comments relative to this matter:

1. Of all the groups in the city, the authors of this report, the grass-roots citizen preservationists, are the people who monitor the commission's work most thoroughly: attending every public meeting and checking the built results in the field in regard to thousands of applications every year. ~~No other constituency knows the work of the commission as well.~~

2. None of the "Issues of Concern" listed in their document are new-these are long-standing problems, some growing worse in recent years, and to which neither the commission nor the mayor's office has responded.

3. Some of this behavior-including backdoor negotiations with developers and property owners; failure to schedule revised Certificate of Appropriateness applications for public review; capricious exercise of standards in regard to designations; an inadequate hearing room sound system so that the public cannot listen to the commission's discussions-demonstrates an institutionalized lack of transparency and fairness in the public process and an attitude of contempt in the agency's interaction with citizen groups.

4. Given the deaf ear of the commission and the mayor's office, the only people capable of correcting such misconduct are you, this committee. Which I thank for holding this hearing. And which I hope will now schedule further hearings to insure that the Landmarks Commission remedies these abuses.

Saving the landmarks and historic districts of our city requires the support of involved residents to monitor the 23,000 properties which constitute the heritage of New York. Without these people, we can't know whether historic preservation is achieved on the ground, in reality, out in the cityscape. We are blind without their well-informed eyes.

Today, these citizen-stewards are being barred in numerous improper ways from a process which the Council in its wisdom designed to be open and participatory. Please help them regain the fair legal access you intended.

Landmarking's blasted

Lollipop, Harlem in jeopardy

By LORE CROGHAN
DAILY NEWS BUSINESS WRITER

[IMAGE][IMAGE]

Author Wolfe says Landmarks Commission ...

[IMAGE][IMAGE]

... should protect Lollipop building.

Author Tom Wolfe wants New Yorkers to know the city Landmarks Preservation Commission is a bunch of spin. Wolfe lampooned the commission's refusal to consider the Lollipop building at 2 Columbus Circle for landmark p

And he's only one of many who think the commission has become a tool of big money.