

Int. No. 705-A

By Council Member Perkins

A Local Law

To amend the administrative code of the city of New York in relation to public hearings by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Be it enacted by the Council as follows

Section 1. Legislative findings. The Council of the City of New York recognizes that the city is known throughout the world for its landmarks. As the largest city in the nation, and as one of the oldest, the city's landscape is characterized by a wealth of buildings and other structures that evoke an indelible sense of time and place, and that retain the aesthetic and cultural values of the society that created them. The Landmarks Preservation Commission ("LPC") is responsible for identifying and designating properties within the city whose preservation will benefit present and future generations of New Yorkers. Since its creation in 1965 the LPC has designated over 1,100 individual landmarks, 83 historic districts, and 11 district extensions, totaling approximately 23,000 structures. The Council recognizes the LPC's achievements. Nevertheless there is mounting criticism by property owners, preservation groups, public officials and others that the process of identifying potential landmarks, interior landmarks, scenic landmarks and historic districts is not sufficiently transparent. The Council has consistently found that transparency in government is one of the cornerstones of democracy. Accordingly, this local law is designed to enhance the transparency of the LPC's decision-making process.

Section 2. Subdivision g of section 25-303 of the administrative code of the city of New York is hereby amended by adding a new subsection 3, to read as follows:

(3.) Not more than three times in any calendar year, the council, by resolution adopted by a majority of its members, may publish a list of potential landmarks, interior landmarks, scenic landmarks, historic districts or historic district extensions or any combination thereof that it considers worthy of consideration by the LPC and shall forward such resolution and list to the LPC. Such list shall be known as the "Council potential landmarks list". Upon receipt of the Council potential landmarks list, the LPC, in the case of a landmark, interior landmark or scenic landmark shall conduct a public hearing on such listed items within sixty (60) days and, in the case of a historic district or historic district extension, shall conduct a public hearing within ninety (90) days.

Section 3. This local law shall take effect immediately.