

Landmark Revamp Gets an OK

By ROBERTA B. GRATZ

A City Council committee has given unanimous approval to a major revamping of the city's 1965 landmarks preservation law.

The committee vote came yesterday after some 25 representatives of prestigious organizations and far-flung community groups spoke in favor of the legislation at a public hearing before the council's Charter and Government Operations Committee.

Council members and preservation advocates all agreed that the tenor of yesterday's hearings were markedly different than those held almost 10 years ago when the original legislation was vocally opposed by real estate spokesmen.

This time, the only opposition came in the form of a letter from the New York Real Estate Board saying the legislation would be "one more restriction on private ownership and would prevent normal development in the city."

Token Opposition

"It is certainly token opposition," commented committee chairman Edward Sadowsky (D, L. Queens), "when the real estate board doesn't even bring its troops down in person.

"I think," Sadowsky added, "that it clearly shows that the experience with the law has eliminated fears and it also shows what great support preservation has all over the city."

The law change that was first prepared by the Municipal Art Society more than

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two years ago would greatly expand the powers of the Landmarks Commission and allow for the first time the designation of parks and interior spaces.

Officially designed landmarks may not now be externally altered or demolished without approval of the commission. The amended legislation potentially could extend that protection to such interiors as the Grand Cen-

course of Grand Central Station or the Great Hall of the Metropolitan Museum and such scenic areas as Central and Prospect Parks.

The proposed reforms were jointly sponsored by Majority Leader Thomas J. Cuife (D-Bklyn) and Councilmen Carter-Burden (D, L.Man.) and Sadowsky. It is expected to pass the full council in the next couple of weeks.