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Greenwich
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Preservation

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Mr. John Weiss,
Deputy Counsel
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: 69 Gansevoort Street alterations

Dear Mr. Weiss,

Thank you for your reply to our recent inquiry concerning the renovation work at 69 Gansevoort Street. We are pleased that the LPC is taking immediate action on the violations at this location and look forward to seeing the restoration properly executed.

However, I must reiterate my objection that this application was approved at staff level rather than receiving a full review by the Commission. In looking at the rules, they state that staff permits will be issued for restoration work if the restoration work will not cause the removal of significant historic fabric that has been added over time, and reflects the history and development of the building, structure or site.

In fact, such changes are exactly what the staff level permit allowed. The designation report calls out the significance of the façade at No. 69: "The building further contributes to the visual cohesion of the district through its brick and metal façade." Even though the CNE calls for the replacement of the corrugated metal at the facade, it allows for a bulkhead of a different height than the original. This sort of change in the design as well as approval of a new door warrant review by the Commission. We have seen applications for Certificates of Appropriateness with less significant changes receive review by the Commission, including most recently 740 Broadway (docket #18-5730, hearing date 07/19/2016) and 62 Cooper Square (docket #18-0252, hearing date 05/17/2016).

I urge the Commission to reconsider its granting of staff level permits in this case, revoke the permits, and require the applicant to refile for a Certificate of Appropriateness application, which would require review at the Commission and allow public comment, as required by the landmarks law and current rules.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman
Executive Director

cc: Meenakshi Srinivasan