



**Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation**

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August 20, 2015

Hon. Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: 46-74 Gansevoort Street, Gansevoort Market Historic District, Manhattan

Dear Chair Srinivasan:

I write to express the deep concerns of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation about the impending application for demolition, alteration, and new construction at these addresses, and to urge you and your fellow Commissioners not to approve any such plan as currently conceived. While I understand that the Certificate of Appropriateness application for these sites has not yet been formally filed, I am taking the unusual step of contacting you about this application now because I understand from the applicant that they have met with you and senior staff at the Commission to present this application, and that they intend to formally file soon. We have been presented with [the application](#) and understand that, at most, minor modifications may take place between now and the formal filing, but that the basic plan will not change.

The current plan, which would involve the demolition of two buildings on Gansevoort Street, the construction of two new buildings, one at the corner of Washington and Gansevoort Street reaching approximately 120 feet in height, and the addition of four stories on top of the iconic row of two story market buildings at 60-68 Gansevoort Street, runs completely contrary to the entire purpose of the designation of the Gansevoort Market Historic District, and would destroy many of the very features the district is intended to celebrate and preserve. As the organization which originally proposed and, along with many others, fought for the designation of this district, we would find the approval of this plan or any plan which includes these basic components a tragic and devastating blow not only to the Gansevoort Market Historic District, but to landmark designation and historic preservation in New York City.

Gansevoort Street forms the heart of the Gansevoort Market Historic District, and its cobblestoned street surrounded by low-scaled market buildings encapsulates exactly what is so unique, visually pleasing, and historically significant about the Meatpacking District. This proposal would erase many of these key elements and features. Transforming the row of two-story market buildings at 60-68 Gansevoort Street into a six-story building merged with a new, adjoining 8-story, 120 foot tall structure would completely change the scale and feel of this block which serves as a gateway for

thousands of people each day to and from the Meatpacking District, the rest of the West Village, the High Line, the Whitney Museum, and the Hudson River Park.

This organization has always recognized that growth and change can be part of historic districts, and that this is especially true of the Gansevoort Market Historic District, where many buildings have evolved over time. But the current proposal would overwhelm and erase the very features which the historic district designation are meant to preserve and perpetuate, making such designation almost meaningless.

On behalf of the membership of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, the largest membership organization in Greenwich Village, the East Village, and NoHo, I urge you in the strongest of terms not to approve this plan or any variation of it, and to let the applicant know that this proposal needs to be fundamentally rethought. Any proposal other than modest changes to this block at the heart of the Gansevoort Market Historic District, building upon and deferring to the existing character rather than overwhelming and destroying it, should be sent back to the drawing board.

Sincerely,



Andrew Berman
Executive Director

Cc: Mayor Bill de Blasio
Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen
Members of the Landmarks Preservation Commission
Congressmember Jerrold Nadler
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer
City Councilmember Corey Johnson
Assemblymember Deborah Glick
State Senator Brad Hoylman
Community Board #2, Manhattan
Municipal Art Society
Historic Districts Council
New York Landmarks Conservancy
Greenwich Village Community Task Force
Horatio Street Association