



CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

March 4, 2009/Calendar No. 14

N 090289 HKM

IN THE MATTER OF a communication dated January 22, 2009, from the Executive Director of the Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding the landmark designation of the New York Public Library 125th Street Branch, 224 East 125th Street (Block 1789, Lot 37), by the Landmarks Preservation Commission on January 13, 2009 (List No. 409/LP-2305), Borough of Manhattan, Community District 11.

Pursuant to Section 3020.8(b) of the City Charter, the City Planning Commission shall submit to the City Council a report with respect to the relation of any designation by the Landmarks Preservation Commission, whether of a historic district or a landmark, to the Zoning Resolution, projected public improvements, and any plans for the development, growth, improvement or renewal of the area involved.

On January 13, 2009, the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) designated the New York Public Library 125th Street Branch, as a city landmark. The landmark is located at 224 East 125th Street, in East Harlem, Manhattan Community District 11.

The 125th Street Branch is located on the south side of East 125th Street between Second and Third avenues, and has served the Harlem community for more than 100 years. Built in 1904-1929, the library was designed by the prominent firm of McKim, Mead & White, one of the most notable and influential architecture firms in the country. They designed twelve of the New York Public Library Carnegie Branches, and played a major part in the formulation of the libraries' design guidelines. The library is three stories high and three bays wide and is clad in rusticated limestone. The striking Renaissance Revival- style building is of the palazzo type. along the sides and base and a polished limestone base.

The landmark is located in an C4-4D zoning district. It is also located within the Special 125th Street District. With an allowable floor area ratio of 7.2, the zoning lot could be developed with approximately 36,043 square feet of floor area. The zoning lot containing the landmark site has 5,006 square feet of floor area. Therefore, there are approximately 22,225 square feet theoretically available for transfer.

Pursuant to Section 74-79 of the Zoning Resolution, a landmark building may transfer its

unused development rights to a lot contiguous to the zoning lot occupied by the landmark building or one which is across the street and opposite to the zoning lot occupied by the landmark building, or in the case of a corner lot, one which fronts on the same street intersection as the lot occupied by the landmark. There are three potential receiving sites available for the transfer of the landmark's unused floor area.

All landmark buildings or buildings within Historic Districts are eligible to apply for use and bulk waivers pursuant to Section 74-711 of the Zoning Resolution.

There are no projected public improvements or plans for development, growth, improvement or renewal in the vicinity of the landmark.

The subject landmark designation does not conflict with the Zoning Resolution, projected public improvements or any plans for development, growth, improvement or renewal in the vicinity of the landmark.

AMANDA M. BURDEN, FAICP Chair
KENNETH J. KNUCKLES, Esq. Vice Chair
ANGELA M. BATTAGLIA, IRWIN G. CANTOR, P.E.,
ANGELA R. CAVALUZZI, AIA, ALFRED C. CERULLO, III,
BETTY Y. CHEN, MARIA M. DEL TORO,
RICHARD W. EADDY, NATHAN LEVENTHAL,
SHIRLEY A. McRAE, KAREN A. PHILLIPS, Commissioners