Daniel A. Murphy
Chairperson

Jeremy Laufer
District Manager

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN
COMMUNITY BOARD #7

Eric Adams
Borough President

March 24, 2014

Hon. Robert B. Tierney
Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Dear Chair Tierney:

At Community Board 7's Board Meeting, on March 19, 2014 our Board unanimously [1]voted to support the Sunset Park Landmarks Committee's (SPLC), Request for Evaluation (RFE), in consideration for a historic district in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, which will shortly be submitted to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for the City of New York (LPC).

Our Board was extremely impressed with the community outreach and engagement efforts by SPLC over the past 18 months. SPLC 's efforts included: canvassing more than two thirds of the blocks in the Sunset Park neighborhood, obtaining 2,600 signatures of support for the establishment of the historic district from neighborhood residents and over 400 individual letters of support from the residents of the block designated for land marking.[2] It was very clear to our Board Members that SPLC's public outreach and education program was extensive and thorough.

SPLC's efforts to keep the Community Board informed of their progress and to educate our Board Members included a tour of the blocks that are proposed for landmark designation. In addition SPLC presented the Land Use/Landmarks Committee a compressive and well-documented report in support of their case for the establishment of a Sunset Park Historic District. At a Public Hearing of Community Board 7 to consider the SPLC' s REF over 130 members of the community attended of which 26 gave testimony in favor of the historic/ landmark designation and there were none opposed.

---

[1] The Community Boards vote in favor of SPLC's RFE was 33- in favor, 0-opposed, 0-abstentions.

[2] SPLC also received the support of Representative Nydia Velazquez and community organizations such as UPROSE, Chinese-American Planning Council and Fifth Avenue Committee.

Our Board Members are enthusiastic about SPLC's proposal because, as many noted, an historic district is the next step to preserving what is left of this old brownstone community, which is under constant development pressures and has resulted in the lost of many historically significant and architectural masterpieces over the last few years. The Community Board believes that the proposed historic district will help the Sunset Park community achieve many of the preservation goals we had hoped to achieve through the rezoning of the majority of our residential community in 2009. We are grateful that our neighbors, SPLC, has taken on this task and we whole-heartedly endorse SPLC's study and plan and request LPC's approval of it in its entirety.

On behalf of the members of Community Board 7 we thank you in for the opportunity to make this submission to the LPC.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Murphy
Chair. Community Board 7

John W. Burns
Chair, Land Use/ Landmarks Committee

Jeremy Laufer
District Manager

cc: Hon. Carlos Menchaca, Councilman
Sunset Park Landmarks Committee

March 24th, 2014

Commissioners
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Dear Commissioners:

It is with great pleasure that UPROSE strongly supports the Sunset Park Landmarks Committee Request For Evaluation for the creation of a historic district in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. UPROSE, founded in 1964, is Brooklyn's oldest Latino community based organization. UPROSE is dedicated to the development of Southwest Brooklyn and the empowerment of its residents primarily through broad and converging environmental, sustainable development, and youth justice campaigns.

We see preserving and landmarking our community as a way of addressing climate change. It is necessary to prevent over development that uses non-sustainable materials and increases the carbon footprint of this large walk-to-work community. Preservation also addresses our concerns of local displacement.

Unlike many other areas in "Brownstone Brooklyn," Sunset Park was built primarily for members of the working class and remains a predominantly working class neighborhood. Though some sections of Sunset Park have been remodeled, many blocks are, for the most part, intact and visually cohesive, showcasing the architectural form and beauty crucial to the community's delightful, welcoming streetscapes. These streetscapes show the care that individual homeowners have taken with their historic homes.

Right now, however, there are very real concerns about the neighborhood losing its character and sense of place. A disturbing, rapidly escalating trend has emerged as every year more and more two- and three-family homes are irreparably altered with historically insensitive changes. The rowhouses in Sunset Park deserve to be protected by landmark designation.

Thank you for considering a historic district in Sunset Park.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth C. Yeampierre

Elizabeth C. Yeampierre , Esq.
Executive Director

Siempre En Lucha Y Siempre Por Nuestra Gente
166A 22nd Street Brooklyn, NY 11232 (T) 718 492 9307 (F) 718 492 9030
www.uprose.org

Sunset Park District Management Association
Sunset Park Business Improvement District
Serving Sunset Park's 5th Avenue Community since 1995
5116A 5th Avenue, Suite 200 / Brooklyn NY 11220
PHONE: (718) 439-7767 / FAX: (718) 439-7794
EMAIL: info@sunsetparkbid.org / WEBSITE: sunsetparkbid.org
LOG ON: !SUNSET PARK FREE WIFI

Brooklyn's Fifth: Many cultures, many shops, ONE avenue!

March 13, 2014

NYC Landmarks Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th floor
New York NY 10007

Dear Commissioners:

The Sunset Park Business Improvement District represents 26 blocks of mostly mixed-use commercial buildings along 5th Avenue in Sunset Park from 38th Street to 64th Street. Located within the largest New York State and National Register of Historic Places in the northeast United States, the Sunset Park BID recognizes the importance of both progress and the necessary protection of our heritage.

Therefore, the Sunset Park Business Improvement District supports the efforts of the Sunset Park Landmarks Committee to preserve the rich history of our residential community, which has played a significant role in the history of New York City and America.

Sincerely,

Delvis Valdes
President

GW
GREEN-WOOD

500 25th Street
Brooklyn, New York
11232-1755
green-wood.com

The Green-Wood Cemetery
(718) 768-7300

The Green-Wood Historic Fund
(718) 210-3080

January 8, 2014

Commissioners
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express Green-Wood Cemetery's support for the designation of a historic district in Sunset Park, Brooklyn.

As a National Historic Landmark and resident of this neighborhood for 175 years, Green-Wood shares the commitment of the Sunset Park Landmark Committee to the preservation and promotion of this community's long history.

The distinctive row houses of Sunset Park have graced the streets around Green-Wood for the past century. In fact, many of the workers that Green-Wood has employed over the last century have lived in the historic residential buildings surrounding the Cemetery. Happily, several blocks are essentially intact and remain visually cohesive, creating welcoming streetscapes for residents and visitors. We see that most homeowners have taken great care of their historic houses, contributing to a true sense of community and history.

Every year, however, it seems that a handful of two- and three-family homes are overhauled and irreparably altered with architecturally insensitive changes. If this is permitted to continue, we are very concerned that the neighborhood may lose its unique and historical character. At a time when Green-Wood's commitment to this neighborhood has never been stronger (we are ourselves engaged in a multi-million dollar restoration of the Victorian-era Weir greenhouse), we firmly believe that the preservation of the historic structures of Sunset Park is a critical to its future.

We urge the Commission to bestow landmark status upon Sunset Park. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Moylan

Richard J. Moylan
President

華人策劃協會

CHINESE-AMERICAN PLANNING COUNCIL, INC.

A private, not-for-profit, social service, education and community development organization

Executive Director
David Chen

BROOKLYN BRANCH
SUNSET PARK OFFICE

4101 8th Avenue, 4th Floor
Brooklyn, New York 11232
Tel: (718) 492-0409
Fax: (718) 567-0397

Multi-Social Services

Information and Referral Services

Housing Services

OST @ PS 153

Beacon @ IS 220

After-School Programs and Summer Day Camp
@ PS 97, PS 105, PS 310, PS 209, PS 199

Youth Services

Senior Services

Educational Program
Recreational Activities
Community Wellness
GMHI

Services to Asian Parents of the Developmentally Disabled

Child/Family Health Plus Enrollment and Recertification

Weekend Programs
Saturday Kids Program

Community Events

January 23, 2014

Commissioners
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Dear Commissioners:

I understand that the Sunset Park Landmarks Committee has submitted a Request For Evaluation and we are writing to express our strong support for the creation of a historic district in Sunset Park, Brooklyn.

As a community organization here in Sunset Park, we are aware of the historically insensitive changes to the turn of the century rowhouses and are gratified to know there is an opportunity for the historic homes in the neighborhood to be preserved so they can stand today, and in the future, as they have for more than 100 years.

Unlike many other areas in "Brownstone Brooklyn," Sunset Park was built primarily for members of the working class and remains a predominantly working class neighborhood. Though some sections of Sunset Park have been remodeled, many blocks are, for the most part, intact and visually cohesive, showcasing the architectural form and beauty crucial to the community's delightful, welcoming streetscapes..

Right now, however, there are very real concerns about these blocks losing their character and sense of place. A disturbing, rapidly escalating trend has emerged as every year more and more two- and three-family homes on these historic blocks are irreparably altered with historically insensitive changes. The rowhouses in Sunset Park deserve to be protected by landmark designation.

Thank you for considering a historic district in Sunset Park.

Sincerely,

Wai Yee Chan
Branch Director

718-492-0409 ext. 305
Wchan2@cpc-nyc.org

Brooklyn Chamber
of Commerce

Carlo A. Scissura, Esq.
President and CEO

March 21, 2014

NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support of the creation of a NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission historic district in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, requested by the Sunset Park Landmarks Committee.

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and its affiliate 501(c)3 the Brooklyn Alliance, is a 1,600 members strong full service business and economic development organization. We provide a suite of programming to both our members and the greater Brooklyn business community. The Neighborhood Entrepreneurship Project (NEP) is one of our main economic development initiatives which aims to assist local business communities across the borough access resources to help support and grow their business, one of which is the 4th Avenue corridor in Sunset Park.

Sunset Park is at a pivotal point of transition, with new residential development encroaching on the historic working class row houses that define the character of the neighborhood. The creation of a Sunset Park historic district would preserve the rich character of the community and would help small businesses thrive as part of a vibrant and unique working class Brooklyn neighborhood. I support the Sunset Park Landmarks Committee and their efforts to designate Sunset Park as an historic district.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carlo A. Scissura, Esq.
President & CEO

CAS/qo

335 Adams Street, Suite 2700
Brooklyn, NY 11201

t: 718-875-1000
f: 718-222-0781

www.ibrooklyn.com
carlo@brooklynchamber.com

March 7, 2014

Commissioners
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Dear Commissioners:

I understand that the Sunset Park Landmarks Committee has submitted a Request For Evaluation and I am writing to express my strong support for the creation of a historic district in Sunset Park, Brooklyn.

As an institution here in Brooklyn, we have seen historically insensitive changes to the beautiful rowhouses and are gratified to know there is an opportunity for the historic homes in the Sunset Park neighborhood to be preserved so they can stand today, and in the future, as they have for more than 100 years.

Unlike many other areas in "Brownstone Brooklyn," Sunset Park was built primarily for members of the working class and remains a predominantly working class neighborhood. Though some sections of Sunset Park have been remodeled, many blocks are, for the most part, intact and visually cohesive, showcasing the architectural form and beauty crucial to the community's delightful, welcoming streetscapes. These streetscapes show the care that individual homeowners have taken with their historic homes.

Right now, however, there are very real concerns about the neighborhood losing its character and sense of place. A disturbing, rapidly escalating trend has emerged as every year more and more two- and three-family homes are irreparably altered with historically insensitive changes. The rowhouses in Sunset Park deserve to be protected by landmark designation.

Thank you for considering a historic district in Sunset Park.

Sincerely,

Amul Chauhan
Trustee Chairperson
Bethelship Norwegian United Methodist Church
413-56th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11220

HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL

THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

232 East 11th Street New York NY 10003
tel 212-614-9107 fax 212-614-9127 e-mail hdc@hdc.org

March 13, 2014

Commissioner Robert Tierney, Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Tierney:

The Historic Districts Council strongly supports the proposed Sunset Park Historic District. The neighborhood contains one of the city's earliest and most extensive concentrations of two-family masonry rowhouses, mostly built between 1885 and 1912. The proposed district encompasses representative blocks that best showcase Sunset Park's architectural contributions to the city. This historic and elegant section of Brooklyn deserves the protection and honor that landmark designation brings.

In 1988, an area encompassing 3,237 buildings in Sunset Park – nearly the entire neighborhood – was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, making it one of the state's largest National Register Historic Districts. However, without protection by the City, this area has witnessed inappropriate alterations and demolitions, which have inspired local residents to take action to protect their beautiful streetscapes.

The proposed study area outlined in the Request for Evaluation is the result of a careful research, survey and outreach effort on the part of the community. These blocks were chosen for their outstanding beauty, intact original fabric and resident support. Over roughly 15 months, the Sunset Park Landmarks Committee held and attended numerous meetings; hosted a dozen well-attended walking tours; recruited block captains to manage and help with the survey effort; rallied broad community support and input at several very successful tabling sessions; and engaged with other community organizations and local elected officials.

The proposal before you represents the desires of the Sunset Park community to safeguard and enhance the beauty of this historic neighborhood, not only for the well-being of the many individuals who live and work here and for the stability that a designation will bring, but to encourage citywide appreciation for the area's significance. Landmark status will also help preserve the quality housing that draws people of many backgrounds to the neighborhood, making for a characteristically diverse New York City community.

We respectfully request that the Landmarks Preservation Commission move forward with haste in making this worthy community the next New York City historic district.

Sincerely,

Simeon Bankoff
Executive Director

DISTRICT OFFICE
5601 5TH AVENUE, S-2
BROOKLYN, NY 11220
TEL: (718) 439-9012
FAX: (718) 439-9042

CITY HALL OFFICE
250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1759
NEW YORK, NY 10007
TEL: (212) 788-7372
FAX: (212) 788-7768

E-MAIL: cmenchaca@council.nyc.gov

THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

CARLOS MENCHACA

COUNCIL MEMBER
38TH DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

CHAIR
IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE

COMMITTEES
GENERAL WELFARE
RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY
SMALL BUSINESS
STANDARDS & ETHICS
TRANSPORTATION

March 19, 2014

Commissioners
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioners:

I am proud to represent the Sunset Park community, which contains one of the largest National Register Historic Districts in the United States. Greenwood Cemetery in Sunset Park is a National Historic Landmark, and its gates and chapel are New York City Landmarks. Several other buildings in the district are also city and national landmarks. However, these well-deserved distinctions for Sunset Park do not protect the homes and streetscapes in historic neighborhoods from out-of-character development that diminishes the character and history so important to our diverse communities. I support the creation of a landmark district in Sunset Park, to preserve the beauty and continuity that has made this area such a desirable place to live, work, and visit in Brooklyn for over a century.

Sunset Park has traditionally been a beacon, offering the opportunity for home ownership to immigrants and the middle class. Sunset Park has allowed people of modest means to live in some of the most historically and culturally significant exemplars of Renaissance Revival , Romanesque Revival, neo-Grec; Classical Revival and neo-Renaissance homes in the world. One hidden feature of the houses in the proposed landmark district that distinguishes it is that the outwardly appearing one-family homes actually house two families. This enables one of the units to be used as a source of rental income.

Residents of Sunset Park fear that out-of-scale and out-of-character development may threaten the unique fabric of the existing building environment and the neighborhood. Landmarking the most exemplary blocks in Sunset Park will preserve the treasured architecture for current and future generations, and continue to make the neighborhood an attractive destination in New York City to visit and to live.

Over 2,600 residents, the vast majority of homeowners in the study area, as well as a leading coalition of community organizations have expressed support for the creation of a landmarked historic district in Sunset Park. While I have heard legitimate concerns regarding the increased red tape, upkeep and improvement project expenses bore by homeowners, and the potential rent increases that could flow from that, these concerns have been few and I am committed to working with all affected residents to address these concerns streamline the process for home repair and improvement approvals if and when the landmark district is created. In conclusion, I urge the Landmarks Preservation Commission and my colleagues in the City Council to approve the creation of the landmark district in Sunset Park. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

Carlos Menchaca
Council Member for the 38th Council District

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND INSURANCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER CREDIT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ
7TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

OLDER AMERICANS CAUCUS

CONGRESSIONAL CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

March 4, 2014

Commissioners
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10007

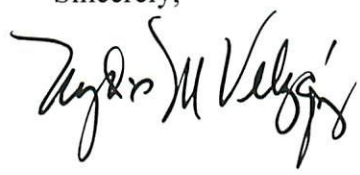
Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my strong support for a NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission historic district designation in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, requested by the organization Sunset Park Landmarks Committee.

The Sunset Park neighborhood, located in my Congressional District and where I lived for many years, occupies a unique place in New York and American history. With New York Harbor's dominance in North American shipping during the 19th century, the neighborhood up the slope from the Bush Terminal waterfront grew with thousands of row houses constructed for middle- and working-class families. From the late 1880's through the turn of the century, row houses were built in a variety of styles ranging from frame neo-Grec, to masonry Queen Anne, Romanesque Revival, and neo-Renaissance. At the top of the hill, Green Wood Cemetery boasts monuments and buildings executed by some of the most prominent architects and artists of their time. In 1988, the U.S. Department of Interior, National Parks Service together with the State of New York Historic Preservation Office added 3,237 Sunset Park buildings to the New York State and National Register of Historic Places, constituting one of the largest in the Northeastern United States. However, with increasing development pressures threatening the fabric of the neighborhood, National and State historic designation is not enough to protect the integrity of these two- and three-family buildings. The Sunset Park neighborhood deserves the protections that NYC landmark designation and afford.

I wholeheartedly support the Sunset Park Landmarks Committee's application. I am proud of the neighborhood's architectural beauty, and trust you will agree it warrants city historic designation. Should you require additional information from my office, please contact Dan Wiley of my staff at (718) 222-5819. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

2302 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2361

266 BROADWAY
SUITE 201
BROOKLYN, NY 11211
(718) 599-3658

16 COURT STREET
SUITE 1006
BROOKLYN, NY 11241
(718) 222-5819

SARA M. GONZALEZ
COUNCIL MEMBER, 38TH DISTRICT
BROOKLYN

DISTRICT OFFICE
5601-5TH AVENUE, SUITE #2
BROOKLYN, NY 11220
TEL (718) 439-9012
FAX (718) 439-9042

CITY HALL OFFICE
250 BROADWAY, ROOM 1725
NEW YORK, NY 10007
TEL (212) 788-7372
FAX (212) 788-7768

gonzalez@council.nyc.ny.us

THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

CHAIR
JUVENILE JUSTICE

COMMITTEES
LAND USE
YOUTH SERVICES

SUB – COMMITTEES
PLANNING, DISPOSITIONS & CONCESSIONS

Commissioners
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10007

December 6, 2013

Dear Commissioners,

In recent years, there has been a growing call within one of the largest neighborhoods in my District, Sunset Park, for landmark protection. With the unfortunate proliferation of out-of-scale, out-of-context development, many homeowners and residents have become increasingly worried about losing the historic and contextual character of the area.

To that end, I strongly supported and ushered through a 125-block rezoning of Sunset Park in 2009. This rezoning downzoned the area in order to protect the low-rise, rowhouse character of local side streets, many built between 1890 and 1910. In 2012 a local grassroots coalition of concerned residents formed as the Sunset Park Landmarks Committee (SPLC). My office assisted and supported the SPLC, which lead to Sunset Park winning a spot in the HDC's 2013 "Six To Celebrate" program.

Over the course of 2013, the SPLC has worked diligently to inform the Sunset Park community about the importance of landmarking in our neighborhood. The SPLC has hosted monthly meetings, canvassed homeowners on fifteen blocks within the proposed landmark area, held sixteen tabling events to inform the general public of their efforts, and hosted seven walking tours of Sunset Park, showing off our neighborhood to people from all over the city. They have been met with enthusiastic support and have garnered 2,500 signatures supporting this cause.

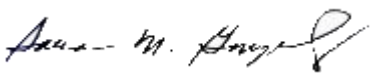
Very real concerns persist over the level of threat to the historic integrity and character of the neighborhood. While there are a few significant landmarked buildings sprinkled throughout the area (including the former 68th Police Precinct Station House and the Sunset Park Recreation Center), most of Sunset Park's residential blocks have been overlooked, despite the neighborhood being home to New York State's largest federal historic register district. The United States Department of the Interior and New York State Historic Preservation Office have listed thousands of homes between 4th Avenue and 7th Avenue, from 38th to 64th Street on the National and State Registers of Historic Places, making this the largest historic district in the

northeast United States. Unfortunately, such designation does not offer the sort of protections many residents seek.

I strongly support the Sunset Park Request for Evaluation to the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Additionally, 2,500 residents have signed the SPLC petition to support preservation and on several of the canvassed blocks there is high homeowner support of 75% and above.

I sincerely thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sara M. González
Councilwoman, District 38