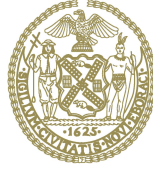


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THE COUNCIL
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DANIEL DROMM
COUNCIL MEMBER, 25TH DISTRICT, QUEENS

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September 25, 2020

Sarah Carroll, Chair
Kate Lemos McHale, Director of Research
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: 88-28 43rd Avenue, Elmhurst, Queens

Dear Chair Carroll and Ms. Lemos McHale,

My office was recently made aware of the cultural significance of Walentyna (nee Stocker) and Aleksander Janta-Polczynski by the Elmhurst History and Cemeteries Preservation Society and Historic Districts Council through their efforts to designate the couple's home as an Individual Landmark.

As a former social studies teacher, the couple's cultural contributions to this nation's history and the rest of the world, I believe is worthy of preservation. Walentyna Janta-Polczynski was the last surviving member of the Polish Government-in-Exile and instrumental in announcing to the United Nations the Nazi atrocities by translating early intelligence reports which detailed German war crimes in the Warsaw Ghetto. She not only translated, but served as an interpreter for dignitaries and survivors of concentration camps. Walentyna was also the founder of a secret wartime resistance radio station, which broadcasted to occupied Poland.

The couple settled into their home at 88-28 43rd Avenue in 1960 and soon became the centerpiece of the Polish American community and culture, and a popular spot for gathering for the Polish emigre elite. Both Walentyna and Aleksander remained a staple in the community until Walentyna's death at 107 years old in April 2020.

I support the designation of their home as an Individual Landmark and encourage the Landmarks Preservation Commission to help preserve their legacy of activism, humanism and leadership in New York City by approving this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dromm", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel Dromm
Chair, Committee on Finance
New York City Council Member, 25th District