

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 Manhattan

March 27, 2009

Hon. Robert B. Tierney
Chairman
New York City Landmarks Preservation
Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street
New York, NY 10007

Ms. Mary Beth Betts
Director of Research
New York City Landmarks Preservation
Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: IRT/Con Ed Powerhouse at 59th Street and Hudson River

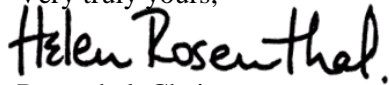
Dear Commissioner Tierney and Ms. Betts:

We write on a matter of extreme urgency regarding the imminent demolition of what may be the only surviving original smokestack of the IRT/Con Ed Powerhouse at 59th Street and the Hudson River. ConEd has a permit for the demolition and is apparently undertaking demolition now. We urge LPC to take all possible steps to preserve the *status quo* pending a designation hearing.

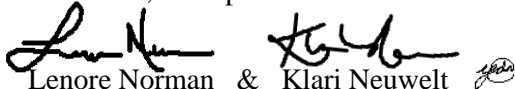
Our Parks & Preservation Committee, at its March 2009 meeting, agreed to recommend that our Full Board adopt a resolution seeking the designation of the Powerhouse as an individual landmark, and we expect to send such a resolution to you promptly after our April 2009 Full Board meeting. We expect to join our voice to those of many others, including Community Board 4, numerous elected officials, LandmarkWest!, etc. who have urged the designation of the Powerhouse.

As you know, the Riverside South development in our District is a post-industrial landscape being adapted for modern residential and other uses. We are starting a ULURP review of the proposal for the build-out of the southernmost parcel of Riverside South, for which a mixed use development called Riverside Center is being proposed. The Powerhouse is located immediately to the south of this parcel. Its industrial history is integral to its architectural, social and geographic context, including the Riverside Center parcel. The loss of what appears to be the Power House's last remaining original smokestack because of lack of timely action would be an unnecessary tragedy to the preservation movement.

Very truly yours,



Rosenthal, Chairperson



Lenore Norman & Klari Neuwelt
Co-Chairpersons, Parks and Preservation Committee

Cc: Borough President Scott M. Stringer
Council Member Gale A. Brewer
Community Board 4/ Manhattan
LandmarkWest!