



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

DEBORAH J. GLICK  
Assemblymember 66<sup>TH</sup> District  
New York County

CHAIR  
Higher Education Committee

COMMITTEES  
Environmental Conservation  
Rules  
Ways & Means

September 8, 2015

Hon. Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair  
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
One Centre Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007

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

Dear Chair Srinivasan,

It has come to my attention that that Aurora Capital Associates and William Gottlieb Real Estate have an impending application to redevelop the entire southern side of Gansevoort Street (46-74 Gansevoort). This would include the creation of luxury retail and commercial space, and would dramatically change the height of the buildings currently located at 60-74 Gansevoort Streets. Despite not having formally filed an application for redevelopment of that block in the historic district, I have been informed that representatives from these groups have met with you and other staff at the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC). While I will also testify when an application is reviewed before the Commission in the coming months, I want to take the opportunity to write and express my deep concern regarding the nature of this project and the negative impact it will have on the preserved city-scape of the Gansevoort Market Historic District.

Representatives from the development team and architects recently held a meeting where designs and plans were presented to the public, and while this meeting did not go particularly well, they assured residents that the final application would not greatly change from their current presentation. This is of particular concern, as the presented plans are detrimental to our historic district and indicates that the developers have no interest in addressing any community issues raised. The plan includes the demolition of two landmarked buildings on that block and a staggering increase in height from the original two story buildings to new construction that is approximately 120 feet. This drastic increase in height and the removal of two buildings along the block that bears the historic district's namesake is unnecessary and reprehensible over-development in a neighborhood we have fought hard to preserve.

When the Gansevoort Market Historic District was created in 2003, the aim was to ensure that the unique history of meatpacking industry, and advancements in manufacturing technologies had on

this section of New York City were preserved for future generations. Substantial changes to the streetscape and feel of these iconic buildings would negate the purpose of the Gansevoort Market Historic District, and completely fail to ensure the buildings' nature is preserved. In a recent meeting, the architects for the project made the argument that the proposed height of the new buildings would be more in line with the original building heights seen in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. This is a hollow argument that does not account for hundreds of years of history since then that have resulted in the buildings which currently stand. If height is allowed to continue to be unregulated within historic districts, views will change, light will be cut off, and the historic district will no longer be preserving a history.

I recognize that change and development can be part of historic districts, and seek to ensure that responsible, community-driven, and long-term growth are encouraged as part of changes to historic neighborhoods. However, the proliferation of high-end retail establishments and destination shopping are not the elements that add to our community in a positive way. I urge you to consider the tenets of historical preservation and the landmarking of buildings and neighborhoods within New York City when discussing this application. These are dramatic and unwarranted changes that go against the very nature and purpose of historic districts and would bring harm to the surrounding communities and set a negative precedent for the viability of landmarked buildings and historic districts throughout the City.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to continuing a conversation with you on this application as it moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah J. Glick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deborah J. Glick  
Assemblymember