

The Rev. Joseph M. Zorawick
40 West 67 Street
New York City, New York 10023

Hon. Helen Rosenfeld, Chair
Hon. Klari Neuwelt, Co-Chair, Parks & preservation Committee
Hon. Lenore Norman, Co-Chair, Parks & Preservation Committee
Manhattan Community Board 7
250 West 87 Street
New York, New York 10024

November 7, 2007

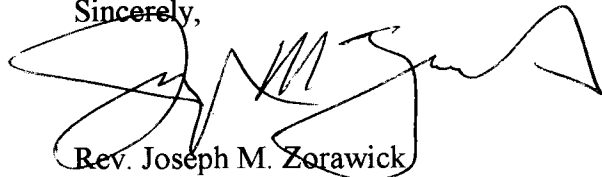
Dear Chair Rosenfeld & Co-Chairs Neuwelt & Norman,

I am writing to support the preservation of West Park Presbyterian Church at 165 West 86th Street. Besides its obvious architectural distinction, it is also an architectural oasis in the midst of the sameness of "block like" buildings. These other buildings may be of note architecturally, but they don't add that beautiful contrast that West Park Presbyterian adds, not only to West 86th, but to the whole of Manhattan.

For some thirty years I was the Rector of Christ & St. Stephen's Church on West sixty ninth street. At the beginning of my ministry our finances at the church were not good, and all during my time there we were always on the lookout for sources of revenue to sustain our ministry. When the Lincoln Square area began to become an area of development, the notion of selling our property and becoming a part of a new building on our site came up for discussion. The discussion did not last long. We felt we wanted to retain our building as is. For with its lawn and distinct architectural features, to destroy it would be a desecration. No one would ever build a church like this in the future. That we would have a difficult time convincing the Community Board and other agencies obviously entered into our thinking. Fortunately, the upsurge in construction in our area gave us the opportunity to sell our air rights. This helped greatly for us to continue so that at the present time the church is thriving.

I have just come back from a trip to Eastern Europe. What was very impressive was the will of those in power to preserve their architectural heritage. This was most evident in Warsaw where the whole of the Old Town, having been destroyed in the war, was painstakingly rebuilt as it was. Can you see this happening in New York City? The best we can do is make every effort to preserve the beauty that we have. West Park Presbyterian Church is one of those building worthy of preservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph M. Zorawick', written over a horizontal line.

Rev. Joseph M. Zorawick