



WEST 64TH STREET BLOCK ASSOCIATION  
ONE WEST 64TH STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10023

February 5, 2003

The Honorable Robert B. Tierney  
Chair  
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
1 Centre Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10007

RE: Congregation Shearith Israel (8 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street)

Dear Chair Tierney:

The 64<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association wishes, with this letter, to go on record as opposing the proposal for a midblock tower on West 70<sup>th</sup> Street between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue.

The hard fought-for zoning laws serve the purpose of maintaining benefits to the neighborhood that are minimal enough but very necessary for the well-being of the community as a whole.

Any exception to the law, such as is proposed in this case, is a mockery of the very notion of law, and erodes all the values the law was created to uphold in the first place. The people of the community should not have to fight, over and over again, to protect its landmarks and maintain the character of the neighborhood. Nor should it have to organize opposition, over and over again, for what is left of the sky, sunlight, breathable air, peace and quiet that remains after the overdevelopment of the as-of-right building sites.

Increasingly, we are leaving to the present and the future a less humane environment due to the lawful gaps in community and citizen protections. Maintaining the few protections citizens actually have should not even be up for discussion. If the city government does this, then "as of right" status should be up for discussion as well.

The 64<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association urges you to exercise all of your influence and authority on behalf of the people who live here, by opposing this ill-conceived project. Waiving existing zoning is not an option.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Moisha K. Blechman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Moisha K. Blechman  
President, 64<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association