

# CIVITAS

A Union of Citizens

1457 Lexington Avenue New York NY 10128-2506

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1914-1997

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28 January 2003

Hon. Robert B. Tierney  
Chair NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Municipal Building  
One Center Street, 9<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York, NY 10005

*Re: Proposal of Congregation Shearith Israel, 8 West 70h Street*

Dear Chairman Tierney:


CIVITAS, an over 22 year old Upper East Side and East Harlem zoning and planning organization is on record for supporting and upholding R8B mid-block zoning regulations.

CIVITAS is appreciative of the needs of institutions for expansion and believes that needed growth is possible while still respecting the spirit of R8B.

The present application, with requests for significant variances, violates the mid-block context, which many communities throughout the city have fought to establish and uphold.

CIVITAS urges that the Commission reject this application because of the adverse effect it will have on the mid-block and because of the precedent it will set for future applications.

Sincerely yours,



Genie Rice, President

cc: Amanda Burden, Chairman City Planning Commission  
C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President