

**The West 67<sup>th</sup> Street Committee**  
**New York, New York 10023**

RE: Congregation Shearith Israel ( 8 West 70th Street)

As constituents of The West 67<sup>th</sup> Street Committee, we are writing to express our opposition to a proposal for a 12-story, 124 foot tower on West 70<sup>th</sup> Street between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue. This proposal, which has been submitted to the New York Landmarks Preservation Commission, threatens the widespread low-rise midblock character of the Upper West Side and may pave the way for other architecturally incompatible projects.

We support the existing zoning for the Upper West Side Historic District, which is designed to protect the low-rise character of neighborhood midblocks, and oppose all present and future applications for “block-busting” building developments.

The West 67<sup>th</sup> Street Committee was formed in 1975 to address development and land use issues affecting the quality of life on our block between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West. Specifically, we have worked to moderate the impact of our large commercial neighbor, ABC, as well as the Brodsky Organization’s mixed-use development at 45 West 67<sup>th</sup> Street. We have also collaborated with neighbors, community groups, and city agencies to preserve and enhance our streetscape, most noticeably by planting and maintaining street trees and installing historic “bishops crook” lampposts.

We are joined in our opposition to the West 70<sup>th</sup> Street project by Manhattan Community Board, #7, the Municipal Art Society, Historic Districts Council, LANDMARK WEST! and Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts, as well as a growing list of individuals and local and citywide groups. In addition, we are grateful for the leadership and support of elected officials including New York State Senators Thomas Duane and Eric Schneiderman and New York State Assemblymember Richard Gottfried, all of whom oppose this project because it violates the zoning and undermines the character of the historic district.

We urge you to do everything in your power to help preserve and protect our community by opposing this ill-conceived project and all other projects that threaten to disrupt our community’s character by waiving existing zoning.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

The West 67<sup>th</sup> Street Committee