

East Side Rezoning Alliance

50 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10016 (212) 683-0783

Founders

Citizens United for the Waterfront
Community
Community Board 6
East Midtown Plaza Housing
Corp
Eleanor Roosevelt Democratic
Club
Gramercy Neighborhood Associates, Inc.
Gramercy Stuyvesant
Independent Democrats
Manhattan East Community
Association (MECA)
Murray Hill Neighborhood
Association
Rose Hill Community Association
SAC (Sutton Area Community, Inc.)
Stuyvesant Park Neighborhood
Association
Tilden Midtown Democratic Club
Tudor City Association
Turtle Bay Association
Union Square Community
Coalition, Inc. (USPCC)
Vincent F. Albano Republican
Club

June 26, 2003

Hon. Robert B. Tierney
Chair NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
One Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Congregation Shearith Israel
W. 70th St., between Central
Park West & Columbus Ave.,
Borough of Manhattan

Dear Chairman Tierney:

Our Alliance of community groups was formed in 1985, and we have cooperatively worked with the City to achieve appropriate land use and rezoning in the CB-6 area.

It takes years for community groups to obtain landmark designations, establish historic districts, and acquire appropriate zoning to protect and reinforce the existing character of their neighborhoods.

Once that is done, we can all expect appropriate changes, but the Congregation Shearith Israel's proposal to build a 14-story, 157-foot tower in the low-rise R8-B midblock of West 70th Street between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue is NOT appropriate. The building will overshadow the landmarked Synagogue, alter the Central Park West streetscape, and undermine the scale and character of this West 70th Street midblock located in the Upper West Side/Central Park West Historic District.

We believe that landmarks, Historic Districts, and contextual zones should be protected. We ask that you do not approve Congregation Shearith Israel's proposal because it is inappropriate and could set an unwelcome local and city-wide precedent. Our Historic Districts are too important to tamper with.

Very truly yours,

Irene Peveri
Irene Peveri

Co-chair

A coalition of East Side community groups between 14th and 59th Streets working for responsible rezoning of the area.