



The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association

June 10, 2003

President
Diane Bartow

Vice Presidents
John R. W. Burkhardt
Edward Curtin
Paula Hutter Gilliam
Virginia Parkhouse

Treasurer
Joe W. Di Domenico

Secretary
Joelle Anderson

Trustees
Shelley Berend
Muriel Bernstein
Hilary Black
Marisa Bulzone
John Chadwick
Anita Duncan
Terri Schiffman Hahn
Ellen Imbimbo
Enid Klass
Leon Kramer
Katharine S. Legg
Nina Liebman
Arlene Sang Lipman
Deane Litwalk
Shirley MacLeod
Joyce Mendelsohn
Richard Mincer
Joseph P. Napoli
Alma Nitti
Ellen Propp
Paula Schaeffer
Helen Weber
Nini Werz

Active
Honorary Trustees
Robert Cohen
Ima Worrell Fisher
Richard Golub
Steve Weingrad

Robert B. Tierney, Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street 9th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10007

Re: Congregation Shearith Israel (8 W. 70th Street)

Dear Chairman Tierney:

The Trustees of the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association ask you to deny Congregation Shearith Israel's request for a "Special Permit" which would allow them to build a 14 story building mid block on W. 70th Street, in the low-rise Upper West Side Historic District.

The synagogue's efforts to circumvent the Landmarks law would set a terrible precedent by encouraging other owners to do the same in a self serving attempt to bend the laws which protect our architectural and historically important neighborhoods.

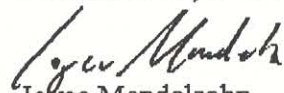
As you know, Murray Hill has a potentially similar situation on the south side E. 36th Street. Granting a special permit to Shearith Israel would no doubt create a flood of applications which would undermine the integrity of historic districts all over town.


We urge you to help us and other neighborhoods preserve and protect our historic districts by opposing this attempt to waive existing zoning.

Sincerely,

MURRAY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION


Diane Bartow, President


Joyce Mendelsohn
Co-Chairs, Preservation & Design Committee


Virginia Parkhouse,
Co-Chairs, Preservation & Design Committee

Post Office Box 1897 • New York, New York 10156-1897
Telephone 212-886-5867

www.murrayhill.org