

*Park Slope Civic Council Inc.*



*729 Carroll Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11215*

May 7, 2003

Hon. Robert B. Tierney  
Chair NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Municipal Building  
One Center Street, 9th Floor  
New York, NY 10005

Dear Chairman Tierney:

The Park Slope Civic Council, fresh from our victory to complete contextual zoning for the Park Slope neighborhood, was disturbed to learn that the hard fought for Quality Housing standards for bulk and height can be bypassed by application for a "special permit".

Our organization was responsible in 1970 for collecting the data, photographing the homes and writing the research that made the 1973 Designation of the Park Slope Historic District possible. In 1991 we joined with the City Planning Commission to promote a pilot program of contextual zoning for a portion of the community. And now, 12 years later, we have succeeded in seeing that protection expanded to cover the balance of Park Slope. We believe the height and bulk controls fought for and adopted for both Park Slope and the Upper West Side are sensible measures that permit development while preserving what is best about our neighborhoods: the scale of our built environment.

We ask you to oppose the Congregation Shearith Israel "special permit" request and protect the low-rise character of neighborhood midblocks. Our 800 members and 30 trustees will follow closely the action taken here, as we wish to avoid any precedents that could be used to compromise the decades of work and accomplishments achieved to maintain the integrity of our historic and unique neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Carl Kaiserman, Trustee

Please respond to 514 12th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215

*Founded on April 16, 1896 as The South Brooklyn Board of Trade.*