

WEST 77TH ST. BLOCK ASSOCIATION

127 W. 77th St.,
NY, NY 10024
212-712-0190

January 27, 2003

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The West 77th St. Block Association (between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues) is an long-standing, active membership group of friends and neighbors. We were pleased to be included in the Upper West Side Historic District and recognize that the designation has been important in preserving the character of our neighborhood.

We therefore write to oppose the proposed construction by Congregation Shearith Israel of a 14 story tower which would rise more than 157 feet above the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue at the corner of West 70th St. and Central Park West. The proposed tower is completely incompatible with the mid-block, low-rise character of West 70th St., a block characterized by low-rise brownstones.

It is important that the Landmarks Commission, the City Planning Commission and our elected officials act to support the existing zoning which was designed specifically to protect the low-rise character of the mid-blocks on the Upper West Side. Approval of this project could be a precedent leading to future proposals for block-busting development along Central Park West. This project undermines the character of the historic district and should be rejected.

Sincerely,



Alberto Antonnini
President

cc: Landmarks Commission
City Planning Commission
Hon. C. Virginia Fields
Hon. Tom Duane
Hon. Richard Gottfried
Hon. Scott Stringer

Hon. Gale Brewer
Hon. Phil Reed
Hon. William Perkins
Landmarks West!