



GALE A. BREWER

COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 6
MANHATTAN

DISTRICT OFFICE
563 COLUMBUS AVENUE AT 87TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10024
(212) 873-0282
FAX (212) 873-0279

CITY HALL OFFICE
250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1744
NEW YORK, NY 10007
(212) 788-6975
FAX (212) 513-7717

gale.brewer@nycouncil.nyc.ny.us
www.nycouncil.info

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October 27, 2006

Ms. Patricia Lancaster
Commissioner
NYC Department of Buildings
280 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Mr. Robert Tierney
Chairman
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioner Lancaster and Chairman Tierney:

I write on behalf of countless area residents with regard to the First Baptist Church on the corner of West 79 Street and Broadway. It has come to my attention that the congregation, which is the oldest Baptist congregation in the United States (founded in 1753), is considering building proposals from developers. It is highly likely that these proposals include the church's demolition.

For nearly 100 years, this building, of which I have enclosed photos, has been an architectural and geographical anchor for the West Side. Unfortunately, this building is not currently protected by landmark status.

I request that this building be calendared for a landmark hearing as quickly as possible. Furthermore, I request that under no circumstance should demolition permits be issued for this building until such time as the Landmarks Preservation Commission has considered it for landmark status.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact Peter Mellman of my staff or me at (212) 873-0282.

Sincerely,

Gale A. Brewer

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