**Transcription from Remarks at 5/23/16 Candlelight Vigil at 361 Central Park West**

Councilmember Mark Levine

Thank you Kate and thank you for everything that LANDMARK WEST! does. Okay, I’ll try and speak up. Is it? Alright. There we go. Thank you Kate for everything you and LANDMARK WEST! has done to preserve the incredible legacy of the Upper West Side over so many years. If there’s ever a case that cried out for our activism, it’s this one, here. You know, I’m sick and tired of the worldview that says ‘we have to develop every single square foot of space in the city for luxury housing.’ We need as a city to have cultural institutions, and houses of worship, and educational institutions, and community centers. They give life and soul to our neighborhoods. And we have; we’re losing them throughout this community and around the city. We do not need more luxury housing on the corner of 96th Street and Central Park West. We certainly do not. And I’ll say about this building, this building is integral to the identity of this neighborhood. It is part of a soul of this neighborhood as it has been for 100 years. This is not just a collection of big stones. There are countless memories here that have been created by communities of faith and neighbors over decades and generations that have given invocation, profound meeting to people in this community and far beyond. We do not need a real estate project here that will deface and distort this incredible, incredible structure that’s so much part of our history and our identity. We have to fight to preserve this beautiful, beautiful building. And we are going to do it with every tool in the toolbox. We’re going to fight in the legal arena and we’re going to hear from our attorney in a moment. I want you to know that your voice matters in a very powerful way. We’ve got to let the policy makers know that there is a public outcry to protect this beautiful, beautiful building and on the political front, I want you to know you have my absolute commitment to stand with you, to fight with you as long as it takes to safeguard this beautiful, beautiful institution. So, this is politics; I’m going to close out with a cheer. Follow me now. ‘Save our landmark, save our landmark, save our landmark, save our landmark, save our landmark.’ Alright, thank you very much, thank you.