

Greenwich Village Block Associations

20 Bank Street, New York, NY 10014

Bedford, Barrow & Commerce
Bedford Downing
Bleecker Area Merchants & Residents
Carmine Street
Central Village (Cornelia, Barrow, Jones)
Charlton Street
Christopher Street Block & Merchants
Christopher Street East
East 10th Street
East 11th Street
East 12th/13th Street
Far West Bank Street
Far West 10th Street
Grove Street
Horatio Street
Jane Street
MacDougal Alley Assoc.
MacDougal Street North
Mercer Street
Minetta
Morton Street
Mulry Angle/W. 11th Street
Perry Street
St. Luke's Place
Upper West 13th Street
Washington Place
Washington Sq/
Lower 5th Ave
Waverly
Waverly-Bank 11 Neighbors
West Houston Street
West Eighth Street
West 9th Street
West 10th Street
West 12th Street
West 13th Street -100 Block

April 4, 2009

Hon. Robert Tierney

Chair: NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission

1 Centre Street – 9th Floor

New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Tierney,

The Greenwich Village Block Associations (GVBA) is a community wide coalition dedicated to preserving and improving the quality of life for residents of our historic neighborhood. We understand that the LPC is considering the second phase of the Washington Square Park redesign. GVBA's primary interest at this juncture is the disposition of the seating alcoves. This was discussed at the March 17 LPC hearing.

Although GVBA appreciates the various points of view on the matter, we support the retention of these alcoves. Many local residents enjoy the comfort and "solitude" that they provide. In good weather students, senior citizens and academics use the alcoves to read, visit with friends, listen to music and/or have a quick meal between classes. These alcoves are not overgrown and their maintenance should be relatively simple. The alcoves are open to the street and passers-by routinely stop to speak with and/or join friends and colleagues sitting there.

A park is not merely a place to walk through or view from outside as a tableau. It is successful only when it fosters neighborhood interaction and social engagement. GVBA does not believe that the fears of a few should spoil the enjoyment and comfort of so many. GVBA hopes that these alcoves will be preserved as an important community amenity. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Marilyn Dorato

Executive Director

Cc: Hon. Adrian Benepe, NYC Parks Commissioner

Hon. William Castro, Manhattan Parks Commissioner

Hon. Scott Stringer

Hon. Christine Quinn

Hon. Alan Jay Gerson

Hon. Rosie Mendez

Hon. Deborah Glick

Community Board 2

Hon. Brad Hoylman, Chair CB2

GVBA Members

The Villager

Published on GVBA Website www.gvba.org

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