

MARCUS ROSENBERG & DIAMOND LLP

488 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

Telephone: (212) 755-7500

Telefax: (212) 755-8713

April 14, 2016

First Deputy Commissioner  
Technical Affairs Unit  
New York City Department of Buildings  
280 Broadway, Fifth Floor  
New York, New York 10007

Re: 1 RCNY §101-15(b)(1)  
Community Challenge To March 30, 2016 Potential  
Zoning Challenge Determination As To Construction  
Permits Issued To Congregation Shearith Israel ("CSI")  
8 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, New York (the "Property")  
Block 1122, Lot 37  
Department of Buildings ("DOB")  
Job No.: 121328919 (the "Project")  
Our Matter No.: 89628.003

Dear Commissioner:

This letter, with the accompanying Zoning Challenge Form and attachments, constitutes a Zoning Challenge and a 1 RCNY §101-15(b)(1) appeal on behalf of Landmark West! other parties named in the June 18, 2015 Zoning Challenge that I filed, and other property owners and residents in the immediate vicinity of the Property, each of which directly and particularly will be affected by the Project.

As will be explained, this 1 RCNY §101-15(b)(1) "Community Challenge" seeks review of a DOB March 30, 2016 letter (the "March 30 Letter" Exhibit A) addressed to the undersigned to the extent that the March 30 Letter might be deemed to be a determination of the Zoning Challenge filed on June 18, 2015.

The March 30 Letter is so unclear and ambiguous that it is virtually impossible to determine whether, and what type of, response might be required.

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To avoid any inference that a failure to respond to the March 30 Letter be deemed to evidence consent or waiver of previously asserted rights and claims, the response will provide material background facts resulting in the present appeal.

On May 4, 2015, DOB issued approval of 5 New Building applications for the Project, at which time DOB's BIS Site Zoning Challenge page stated that Zoning Challenges would be accepted until June 18, 2015 (Exhibit B).

On June 18, 2015, I timely filed a Zoning Challenge on behalf of our clients (Exhibit C) as confirmed by the Fax Transmission Report (Exhibit D). Our paralegal assistant also attempted to hand deliver a copy of the Zoning Challenge to DOB prior to 4:00 pm on June 18, 2015, but the Zoning Challenges office was closed.

Alan Sugarman, Esq., representing other clients, asserting similar objections, submitted a Zoning Challenge on June 18, 2015 (a copy of which, as explained, ultimately was reproduced on the DOB Zoning Challenge page).

On July 2, 2015, having received NO acknowledgement of the filings by Mr. Sugarman or my firm, and with DOB's Zoning Challenge page showing that no Zoning Challenge had been filed, I sent my FIRST follow-up letter to Commissioner Rick D. Chandler, P.E., with copies to: DOB Manhattan Borough Commissioner Martin Rebholz, R.A.; DOB General Counsel Mona Sehgal, Esq.; and DOB's Customer Service Office, at the addresses to which DOB's Rules direct such submissions to be made (Exhibit E).

I received NO response to my July 2, 2015 letter from any of the parties to whom it was delivered.

On July 20, 2015, I sent a SECOND request (Exhibit F) to each of the recipients of my July 2, 2015 letter, requesting confirmation of receipt, with additional copies sent to Mayor Bill de Blasio and DOB First Deputy Commissioner Thomas Fariello, R.A.

I received NO response from any of the six persons who received my July 20, 2015 letter.

On August 4, 2015, I sent my THIRD request for an acknowledgment of the Zoning Challenge (Exhibit G).

I received NO response from any of the persons who received my August 4, 2015 letter responded to it.

As of August 20, 2015, DOB's Zoning Challenge page stated: "No Scanned Challenge Results Found for this Job" (Exhibit H).

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In other words, as of August 20, 2015, the DOB BIS Site claimed that NO Zoning Challenge had been timely filed, despite the fact that:

Two separate Zoning Challenges had been timely filed, one by Mr. Sugarman and the other by me;

More than two months had passed since the Zoning Challenges had been filed with NO acknowledgement of their filing; and

DOB officials had provided NO confirmation of receipt of the Zoning Challenges or the subsequent communications.

DOB's foregoing conduct violated the proscriptions of 1 RCNY §101-15(b):

"The challenge(s)...shall be posted on the department's website and made available upon request at the appropriate borough office."

Although Mr. Sugarman, Landmark West! and I had filed multiple FOIL requests with respect to the Project, NO response had been provided by DOB prior to the time our Zoning Challenge was due.

DOB had issued NO determination as to the Zoning Challenges. DOB failed and refused even to acknowledge receipt of my THREE follow-up requests.

On August 31, 2015, I sent a letter (Exhibit I) to Commissioner Chandler and other City Officials protesting DOB's illegal disregard of the two timely filed Zoning Challenges, with a demand that a Stop Work Order be issued as to the 5 Work Permits improperly issued.

I received NO response from any of the officials who received my August 31, 2015 letter.

On October 14, 2015, FOUR MONTHS after Mr. Sugarman had filed his Zoning Challenge, a copy finally was reproduced on the DOB Zoning Challenge page. NO excuse was provided for the FOUR MONTH delay in posting the Zoning Challenge. NO Excuse was offered for DOB's failure to acknowledge receipt of, or posting a copy of, the Zoning Challenge that I filed the same day that Alan Sugarman filed his Zoning Challenge. NO determination as to my Zoning Challenge was posted.

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The DOB Zoning Challenge page later stated that DOB issued Notices to Revoke the permits previously issued for the Project as of October 11, 2015.

DOB's rules and regulations required any party receiving such a notice, including CSI to file a response no later than October 21, 2015. To date, the DOB BIS Site shows No evidence that CSI failed a response, timely or otherwise.

Given the total failure of DOB to have acknowledged receipt of my Zoning Challenge and my multiple subsequent communications, I filed a new Freedom of Information Law ("FOIL") request, on October 28, 2015 (Exhibit J), adding to similar pending FOIL requests which had been filed by Landmark West!, Alan Sugarman, me and others, demanding "immediate access to every document filed with DOB and all communications with respect to this matter."

Finally, responding to the multiple FOIL requests, DOB provided copies of:

(a) An October 9, 2015 Notice of Comments, to Samuel G. White, of Platt Byard Dovell White, CSI's architects (the "Project Architects"), noting (Exhibit K):

The proposed interior floor layouts are substantially changed from those approved under BSA approved plans calendar no. 74-07-BZ. Provide updated modified BSA approved plans.

The proposed caretaker apartment location is substantially changed from those approved under BSA approved plans calendar no. 74-07-BZ. Provide updated modified BSA approved plans.

(b) The Project Architects' November 12, 2015 letter to DOB Commissioner Scott D. Pavan requesting that "DOB not act to rescind the permit until we have had a chance to complete the process of developing a resolution acceptable to DOB" i.e., to permit CSI to continue with its excavation and construction pursuant to its intentionally falsified documents (Exhibit L);

(c) A November 17, 2015 email (Exhibit M) from Brooke Schafran, copied to Steve Figueredo and Fred Kreizman (all Vice Presidents of Capalino + Company, the "CSI Lobbyists"), stating:

Per our conversation yesterday I would ask that you, Commissioner Pavan, please confirm that in conjunction with the attached signed and sealed letter

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from the architect the Department of Buildings will hold off revocation proceedings for job # 121328919 and allow for the existing permits to remain active while architect properly addresses the audit objections.

(d) A December 10, 2015 letter (Exhibit N) from Commissioner Rebholz to CSI and CSI's Project Architects stating that DOB intended to revoke the previously issued permits within 15 days (which letter should have been, but was not, immediately posted on DOB's Zoning Challenge page in violation of 1 RCNY §101-15(b)).

While the FOIL requests expressly were continuing requests, no documents dated after DOB's December 10, 2015 letter (see Exhibit N) were provided.

Neither DOB nor any of the other City Officials addressed by my letters has offered any excuse for the four-month delay between January 18, 2015 request for acknowledgment of the two DOB's Zoning Challenges and the October 9, 2015 Notices of Intent to Revoke (Exhibit O) the previously issued improper permits. More significantly, no excuse has been offered by any DOB or other City Official as to why the Project was permitted to continue for an additional FIVE MONTHS until the issuance of DOB's March 30, 2016 Stop Work Order.

DOB has offered no explanation for the two-month delay between the issuance of the October 11, 2015 (see Exhibit O) Notices of Intent to Revoke the permits improperly issued for the Project and the second "warning" letter issued by Commissioner Rebholz on December 10, 2015.

Despite the multiple FOIL and other requests made by Mr. Sugarman, me and others, many responsive documents, including emails, letters, notes, plans, meeting schedules and other similar matters were NOT provided. DOB's total refusal to communicate with Mr. Sugarman or me leads to the unmistakable conclusion that it resulted from the successful efforts of Capalino + Company, a top fund-raiser for Mayor de Blasio and, by far, New York City's current most successful lobbyist (earning over \$12 Million in 2015) for the use of its "political connections" with Mayor de Blasio to cause DOB to delay the Zoning Challenge process to permit it to proceed.

That CSI's Architects were able to meet and communicate with DOB is within the intent of 1 RCNY 101-15.

However, 1 RCNY 101-15, does NOT mention lobbyists, who are NOT licensed design professionals permitted to certify, stamp and file plans and applications with DOB.

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Steven Figueredo, Senior Vice President of Capalino + Company served as DOB's Chief of Staff less than two years before Capalino + Company made its overtures to DOB.

Christopher Collins, Executive Vice President of Capalino + Company was a BSA Commissioner who vociferously opposed the Landmark West! opposition to the variance granted by BSA and voted for the variance.

A well-recognized principle rule of law and logic is: "If it walks like a duck, swims like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's a duck." People v. Kadar, 14 Misc. 3d 857 (City Ct., Ithaca, 2006).

The Capalino + Company's role in influencing DOB to NOT provide serious consideration of the illegal submissions of CSI and its Project Architects could be characterized as a paraphrase the "duck rule," i.e., if Capalino advertises itself as a well-connected political "fixer," acts as a well-connected political "fixer" and achieves results normally obtainable only by a well-connected political "fixer," Capalino must be a political fixer.

This further is evidence Capalino + Company communications addressed DOB officials on a first name basis, without copies to the parties filing objections to CSI's Project, the ability of Capalino + Company to schedule meetings with DOB officials and the prompt responses of DOB to CSI's ex parte communications. In comparison, Landmark West! and other neighbors were unable to obtain a single response to dozens of communications, much less a meeting with DOB.

That CSI paid Capalino + Company \$65,000 evidences that the payments were not simply compensation for scheduling a couple of communications. Clearly, CSI paid \$65,000 for the successful efforts of Capalino + Company to delay and prevent DOB from performing its statutory obligations to pursue the intentional false and fraudulent filings by CSI and its Project Architects.

When running for Mayor, Bill de Blasio attacked special "insider" deals, promising an open and honest government administration, untainted by special interests, promising "transparency and responsiveness in government decisions and policies engender trust in over democratic process."

On February 25, 2016, I sent yet another letter to DOB (Exhibit P) noting DOB's prior failure and refusal to acknowledge, much less respond to, my request for production of further documents pursuant to FOIL.

When I received NO response from DOB, I sent a March 9, 2016 email to DOB General Counsel, Mona Sehgal, requesting that she investigate DOB's "stonewalling" and respond to me promptly.

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Receiving NO response from Ms. Sehgal, I followed-up with emails on March 21<sup>st</sup> and March 28, 2016.

Finally, on March 29, 2016, I received a telephone call from DOB Deputy General Counsel Felicia Miller, who promised that a Stop Work Order would be issued immediately.

On March 30, 2016, DOB Assistant General Counsel Cynthia Stallard sent me a letter (see Exhibit A) referencing my February 25, 2016 letter and acknowledging that “you indicate that Landmark West! submitted a Zoning Challenge in June 2015” and that [y]ou also indicate that Alan Sugarman, Esq. submitted a Zoning Challenge...” but not directly acknowledging that DOB had received them.

Ms. Stallard’s letter further stated: “After reviewing these Zoning Challenges, the Department issued objections for the job on October 9, 2015” and “on December 10, 2015, the Department issued a Notice of Intent to Revoke based upon the October 9, 2015 objections.”

Finally, Ms. Stallard’s letter stated: “To insure that work does not proceed until the October 9, 2015 objections are resolved, on March 30, 2016, the Department issued a Notice of Intent to Revoke and ordered the owner and applicant to Stop all Work on the Project immediately.”

Enclosed with the March 30, 2016 letter was a March 30, 2016 letter from Deputy Borough Commissioner Joseph Bruno to CSI and its Project Architects (Exhibit Q) stating: “[T]he conditions described in the attached Objection Sheet present an imminent peril to life or property,” directing that CSI “STOP ALL WORK IMMEDIATELY.”

As acknowledged by Deputy Commissioner Bruno, the conditions described the October 9, 2015 letter presented “imminent peril to life or property.”

DOB has offered NO excuse for permitting such conditions of imminent peril to remain unremedied for 5 months, from October 9, 2015 to March 30, 2016.

The most logical reason for the delay is that Capalino + Company was successful in using its political connections and influence to cause DOB to refrain from taking steps to prevent “imminent peril to life or property.”

DOB’s two October 9, 2015 objections related solely to a few numerous material discrepancies between the plans approved by BSA on May 13, 2008 and those submitted in 2015.

DOB’s October 9, 2015 letter did address, much less demand, an explanation for the false and fraudulent filings made by CSI and its Project Architects under oath.

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That DOB has taken NO steps to prosecute these intentional material misrepresentations leads to the conclusion Capalino + Company has further earned its \$65,000 fee from CSI.

Prior to Ms. Stallard's March 30, 2016 letter, DOB never acknowledged the Zoning Challenge that I filed on June 18, 2015 and, for that matter, Ms. Stallard's letter does not expressly do so.

To the extent that Ms. Stallard's letter might be read to acknowledge that the Zoning Challenge I filed and that DOB's October 9, 2015 objections related to that Zoning Challenge, rather than solely to Mr. Sugarman's Zoning Challenge, I am submitting this challenge, pursuant to 1 RCNY §101-15 (b)(1), as an appeal from DOB's failure and refusal to issue a notice of objections to the other issues raised in the Zoning Challenge that I filed. This filing is timely because the only potential determination of the Zoning Challenge that I filed is Ms. Stallard's March 30, 2016 letter.

If Ms. Stallard's March 30, 2016 letter is not a determination of my Zoning Challenge, then there has been NO determination and the clock has not yet begun to run for this 1 RCNY §101-15 (b)(1) appeal.

Respectfully submitted,



David Rosenberg

DR/jrs





**Zoning Challenge  
and Appeal Form**  
(for approved applications)

*Must be typewritten*

**1 Property Information** *Required for all challenges.*

BIS Job Number 121328919

BIS Document Number BIN 1028510, BIS 32

Borough Manhattan

House No(s) 8-10

Street Name West 70th Street

**2 Challenger Information** *Optional.*

**Note to all challengers:** *This form will be scanned and posted to the Department's website.*

Last Name Rosenberg

First Name David

Middle Initial

Affiliated Organization Landmark West! and others

E-Mail dr@mrdllp.com

Contact Number (212) 755-7500

**3 Description of Challenge** *Required for all challenges.*

**Note:** *Use this form only for challenges related to the Zoning Resolution*

Select one: ☐ Initial challenge ☒ Appeal to a previously denied challenge (denied challenge must be attached)

Indicate total number of pages submitted with challenge, including attachments: *(attachment may not be larger than 11" x 17")*

Indicate relevant Zoning Resolution section(s) below. *Improper citation of the Zoning Resolution may affect the processing and review of this challenge.*

23-633, 24-36, 24-67, 24-391, 24-522, 26-633-7728

Describe the challenge in detail below: (continue on page 2 if additional space is required)

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED PAGES.

**Note to challengers:** *An official decision to the challenge will be made available no earlier than 75 days after the Development Challenge process begins. For more information on the status of the Development Challenge process see the Challenge Period Status link on the Application Details page on the Department's website.*

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY</b>			
Reviewer's Signature:	Date:	Time:	WO#:

Zoning Challenge and Appeal Form

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4	Description of Challenge (continued from page 1)
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***Note to challengers:** An official decision to the challenge will be made available no earlier than 75 days after the Development Challenge process begins. For more information on the status of the Development Challenge process see the Challenge Period Status link on the Application Details page on the Department's website.*

ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY		
Reviewer's Signature:	Date:	Time:

# EXHIBIT A



**Rick D. Chandler, P.E.**  
Commissioner

March 30, 2016

**Cynthia Stallard**  
Assistant General Counsel  
cstallard@buildings.nyc.gov

**David Rosenberg**  
Marcus Rosenberg & Diamond LLP  
488 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

280 Broadway  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007  
www.nyc.gov/buildings

212 393 2772 tel  
212 566 3843 fax

Re: Congregation Shearith Israel  
8 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street  
Block 1122 Lot 37  
Job No. 12132919

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

The New York City Department of Buildings (the "Department") is in receipt of your letter, dated February 25, 2016, addressed to Commissioner Rick Chandler, Manhattan Borough Commissioner Martin Rebolz, and Chief Construction Inspector Calvin Warner regarding the proposed project at 8 West 70th Street, Job # 121328919 (the "Project"). Your letter was referred to this office for response.

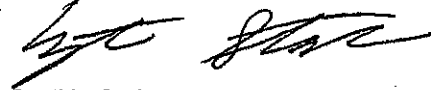
In your letter, you indicate that Landmark West! submitted a Zoning Challenge in June 2015 related to this Project. You also indicate that Alan Sugarman, Esq. submitted a Zoning Challenge related to this Project. After reviewing these Zoning Challenges, the Department issued objections for the job on October 9, 2015. On December 10, 2015, the Department issued a notice of intent to revoke based upon the October 9, 2015 objections. In response, we are informed that the applicant submitted a request to the Board of Standards and Appeals ("BSA") for a letter of substantial compliance. BSA has not yet responded. To ensure that work does not proceed until the October 9, 2015 objections are resolved, on March 30, 2016, the Department issued a notice of intent to revoke and ordered the owner and applicant to stop all work on the Project immediately.

In your letter, you allege that Department personnel are improperly communicating with parties representing the owner and applicant of the Project. Neither the New York State Public Officers Law, nor the Public Zoning Challenge Rule, requires the Department to give the public notice of meetings or communications between job applicants and Department staff. There is also no public right to be present or participate in such meetings or communications.

As requested, enclosed with this letter are documents (a) through (d) described in your

letter. Also enclosed, please find a copy of the March 30, 2016 notice of intent to revoke and stop work order.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Stallard', written over a horizontal line.

Cynthia Stallard  
Assistant General Counsel

cc: Rick Chandler, Commissioner  
Thomas Fariello, First Deputy Commissioner  
Martin Rebholz, Borough Commissioner, Manhattan  
Scott Pavan, Borough Commissioner, Development HUB  
Calvin Warner, Chief Construction Inspector  
Mona Sehgal, General Counsel  
Felicia Miller, Deputy General Counsel

# EXHIBIT B

Opp. Ex. 028 p.15/89

☒ [CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR BUILDINGS NEWS](#)

NYC Department of Buildings

**Challenge Period Status**For more information on Zoning Diagrams & Challenge Process, click [here](#).

Premises: 8 WEST 70 STREET MANHATTAN

Job No: 121328919BIN: 1028510 Block: 1122 Lot: 37

Job Type: NB - NEW BUILDING

**Last Action: PERMIT ISSUED - PARTIAL JOB 08/05/2015 (Q)****Application Approved on: 05/04/2015**

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[Zoning Documents](#)

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[Challenge Results](#)

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Challenge Status

Appeal Status

Closed on 06/16/2015

If you have any questions please review these [Frequently Asked Questions](#), the [Glossary](#), or call the 311 Citizen Service Center by dialing 311 or (212) NEW YORK outside of New York City.

# EXHIBIT C





# Zoning Challenge and Appeal Form

(for approved applications)

*Must be typewritten*

<b>1</b>	<b>Property Information</b> <i>Required for all challenges.</i>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>BIS Job Number 121328919</span> <span>BIS Document Number BIN: 1028510</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <span>Borough Manhattan</span> <span>House No(s) 8-10</span> <span>Street Name West 70th Street</span> </div>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Challenger Information</b> <i>Optional.</i>
<i>Note to all challengers: This form will be scanned and posted to the Department's website.</i>	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>Last Name Rosenberg</span> <span>First Name David</span> <span>Middle Initial</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <span>Affiliated Organization Landmark West! and others</span> <span>E-Mail dr@mrdllp.com</span> <span>Contact Number 212 755 7500</span> </div>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Description of Challenge</b> <i>Required for all challenges.</i>
<i>Note: Use this form <u>only</u> for challenges related to the Zoning Resolution</i>	
Select one: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial challenge <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal to a previously denied challenge (denied challenge must be attached)	
Indicate total number of pages submitted with challenge, including attachments: <i>(attachment may not be larger than 11" x 17")</i>	
Indicate relevant Zoning Resolution section(s) below. <i>Improper citation of the Zoning Resolution may affect the processing and review of this challenge.</i>	
Section 24-11/77-24; Section 24-36; Section 23-633; and Section 23-66	
Describe the challenge in detail below: (continue on page 2 if additional space is required)	

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED.

***Note to challengers:** An official decision to the challenge will be made available no earlier than 75 days after the Development Challenge process begins. For more information on the status of the Development Challenge process see the Challenge Period Status link on the Application Details page on the Department's website.*

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY</b>	
Reviewer's Signature:	<div>Date:</div> <div>Time:</div> <div>WO#:</div>

Zoning Challenge and Appeal Form

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4	Description of Challenge (continued from page 1)
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Note to challengers: An official decision to the challenge will be made available no earlier than 75 days after the Development Challenge process begins. For more information on the status of the Development Challenge process see the Challenge Period Status link on the Application Details page on the Department's website.

ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY	
Reviewer's Signature:	Date: Time:

This Zoning Challenge is submitted on behalf of: LANDMARK WEST!, 80 CPW Apartments Corp., 91 Central Park West Corp., 18 Owners Corp., 11-69 Owners Corp. and other community residents and organizations in opposition to a New Building Application. (Job No. 121328919; BIN: 1028510; Block 1122, Lot 37; 8 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan), approved May 4, 2015 (the "Application").

Applicant's ZD1 Zoning Diagram states that:

1. BSA Approval was granted by BSA Resolution 74-07-BZ; and
2. BSA Resolution 74-07-BZ is the basis for the Application's violation of the following 7 Zoning Resolution requirements:
  - The Lot Coverage;
  - 2 Building Height; and
  - 4 Required Setbacks

**Applicant's Zoning Diagram States:**

<u>REQUIRED SETBACKS</u>	<u>REQUIRED SETBACKS</u>	<u>LOT COVERAGE</u>	<u>BUILDING HEIGHTS</u>
Front: 12.00' as per ZR 24-522, 23-633, 77-28, & BSA Action #74-07-BZ	Rear Yard at Community Facility: 20.00' as per zoning regulation 24-36, 24-391, & BSA Action #74-07-BZ	R8B = 80% R10A = 80% as per ZR 24-11, 77-24 & BSA Action #74-07-BZ	Street Wall: 94.54' as per ZR 24-522, 23-633, 77-28, and BSA Action #74-07-BZ
Rear: 6.67' As per ZR 24-522, 23-633, 77-28 & BSA Action #74-07-BZ	Side court setback: 15.00' as per BSA action #74-07-BZ	Lot Area: R8B = 4,720 S.F. R10A = 1,707 S.F.	Max Building Height: 105.71' as per ZR 24-522, 23-633, 77-28, & BSA Action #74-07-BZ
Rear Yard: 30' as per ZR 24-36, 24-391, & BSA Action #74-07-BZ	Rear Court Setback: 10.67' as per BSA Action #74-07-BZ		

**DOB'S Disapproval of  
Applicant's 2007 New Building Plans**

On August 28, 2007, DOB issued a Notice of Objections to Applicant's then-submitted building plans for violating Zoning Resolution restrictions as to:

interior lot coverage (24-11/77-24); or rear yard depth (24-36); set back (24-36); base height (23-633); building height (23-66); and rear setback (23-633).

**BSA Resolution 74-07-BZ**

Applicant appealed DOB's Notice of Objections to BSA, which issued a May 13, 2008

Resolution (copy attached) stating:

WHEREAS, the proposed building will have the following program . . . (2) dairy and meat kitchens, (3) a synagogue lobby, rabbi's office and archive space on the first floor; (4) toddler classrooms on the second floor; (5) classrooms for the Synagogue's Hebrew School and Beit Rabban day school on the third floor; and (6) a caretaker's apartment and classrooms for adult education on the fourth floor; and

WHEREAS, the first floor will have 5,624 sq. ft. of community facility floor area, the second and third floor will each have 4,826.5 sq. ft. of community facility floor area, and the fourth floor will have 4,777 sq. ft. of community facility floor area, for a total of 20,054 sq. ft. of community facility floor area; and

\* \* \*

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the programmatic needs and mission of [Applicant] include an expansion of its lobby and ancillary space, an expanded toddler program expected to serve approximately 60 children, classroom space for 35 to 50 afternoon and weekend students in [Applicant's] Hebrew school and a projected 40 to 50 students in [Applicant's] adult education program

\* \* \*

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the required floor area cannot be accommodated within the as-of-right lot coverage and yard parameters and allow for efficient floor plates that will

accommodate the Synagogue's programmatic needs, thus necessitating the requested waivers of these provisions; and

\* \* \*

WHEREAS, the Board further notes that the waivers of lot coverage and rear yard requirements are requested to meet the Synagogue's need for additional classroom space . . .

\* \* \*

WHEREAS, . . . [Applicant] submitted a detailed analysis of the program . . . on a space-by-space and time-allocated basis . . .

*Therefore it is Resolved* that the Board of Standards and Appeals issues a Negative Declaration . . . to permit . . . the proposed construction of a nine-story and cellar mixed-use community facility/residential building that does not comply with zoning parameters for lot coverage, rear yard, base height, building height, front setback and rear setback contrary to ZR§§ 24-11, 77-24, 24-36, 23-66, and 23-633; on condition that any and all work shall substantially conform to drawings as they apply to the objections above noted, filed with this application marked "Received May 13, 2008" – nineteen (19) sheets and "Received July 8, 2008" – one(1) sheet; and on further condition:

THAT the parameters of the proposed building shall be as follows: a total floor area of 42,406 sq. ft.; a community facility floor area of 20,054 sq. ft.; a residential floor area of 22,352 sq. ft.; a base height 95'-1"; with a front setback of 12'-0"; a rear setback of 6'-8"; and an interior lot coverage of 0.80; and

\* \* \*

THAT this approval is limited to the relief granted by the Board, in response to specifically cited and filed DOB/other jurisdiction objection(s) only;

THAT the approved plans shall be considered approved only for the portions related to the specific relief granted;

\* \* \*

THAT the Department of Buildings must ensure compliance with all other applicable provisions of the Zoning Resolution, the

Administrative Code, and any other relevant laws under its jurisdiction . . .

**The May 4, 2015 Dob Approved Plans  
Subject of This Challenge**

As illustrated below, DOB's May 4, 2015\* approved plans are materially different from the plans approved by the BSA Resolution:

<u>FLOOR</u>	<u>MAY 13, 2008 BSA APPROVED PLANS</u>	<u>MAY 4, 2015 DOB APPROVED PLANS</u>
1	Lobby for use with existing Synagogue on adjoining lot, small Synagogue/library/residential lobby, offices (475 S.F)	Residential lobby, trash room, elevator control rooms, food service staging, pantry, multi-assembly room/lecture hall, coat room, equipment room
2	3 Offices (1,1473 S.F.), storage, 6 classrooms (1,127 square feet) to be used by CSI Hebrew School	2,022 S.F. reception area, nurse's office, 3 offices, library, reading room outdoor terrace and classrooms (1,065 S.F.)
3	One office, 6 Classrooms (2,600 S.F.) and boys and girls restrooms	Offices and caretaker apartment
4	3 Classrooms (1,409 S.F.), caretaker apartment and boys and girls restrooms	Offices and mechanical room
5	4,512 S.F. of residential space	One Apartment
6	4,346 S.F. of residential space	One Apartment
7	4,346 S.F. of residential space	One Apartment
8	4,346 S.F. of residential space	Lower Level Duplex Apartment
9	2,757 S.F. of residential space	Upper Level Duplex Apartment

Applicant's 2007 BSA application claimed that its programmatic needs and mission required:

- 12 new classrooms (which later plans increased to 15), occupying 5,136 square feet;
- and

\* DOB records indicate that Applicant first filed its plans on June 25, 2013, which were disapproved on April 29, 2014, May 8, 2014, September 8, 2014, March 2, 2015 and March 6, 2015. Applicant has provided no explanation for DOB's 5 disapprovals of its plans or the basis of the May 4, 2015 approval.

- reduction of the required 30 foot rear yard set-back to 20 feet to accommodate larger floor plates for classrooms on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors. DOB's May 4, 2015 approved plans now provide that the ten foot space will be used for an open terrace, not classrooms.

DOB's May 4, 2015 approved plans provide for only 3 classrooms, occupying 1,065 square feet, 20% of the classroom space that Applicant told BSA that it required to satisfy its "programmatic needs and mission".

Expressly adopting Applicant's statement of its alleged "programmatic needs and mission" for 12 (later 15) classrooms, the BSA Resolution granted 7 Zoning Resolution variances to permit the construction of a building large enough to accommodate the classrooms.

The space which BSA approved for use as classrooms now has been "re-purposed" as offices, meeting rooms, conference facilities and an open terrace.

Applicant's current plans eliminate 642 square feet of community facility space and 69 square feet of residential space for a total reduction of 701 square feet of space, the equivalent of the reduced setback authorized by BSA.

Finally, the rooftop bulkhead has been increased dramatically in size and height from that approved by the 2008 BSA Resolution.

The 2008 BSA Resolution granted 7 Zoning Resolution variances expressly "on the condition that any and all work substantially conform to the drawings marked "Received May 13, 2008" adding that "this approval is limited to the relief granted by the Board, in response to specifically cited and filed DOB (other objectives) only; [and that] the approved plans shall be considered approved only for the portions related to the specific relief granted . . ."

The May 4, 2015 DOB approved plans are so materially different from those approved by the 2008 BSA Resolution that Applicant's claim to be authorized by 74-07-BZ must be held to constitute material misrepresentations and false filings.

**Applicant's Misrepresented  
Use of The Fourth Floor**

Applicant's BSA appeal was based on its claimed "programmatic need" for additional classroom space. There was virtually no mention of office space in the 2008 BSA Resolution.

The 2008 BSA Resolution authorized the fourth floor to be occupied by 3 classrooms, a caretaker's apartment and boys and girls restrooms. All of these uses have been relocated to other floors or eliminated in the May 4, 2015 DOB Approved Plans.

Since Applicant never claimed to need such extensive office space, it appears that Applicant intends, in a post-approval application, to convert this space to residential condominium space, to be sold together with floors 5 through 9.

DOB has the right and obligation to demand that Applicant prove that it will use the fourth floor for its "programmatic needs and mission" and, upon Applicant's failure to do so, to revoke this issued permit. 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> St. L.L.C. v. Bd. of Stds. & Appeals, 10 NY 3d 264 (2008).

**Conclusion**

DOB's May 4, 2015 approved plans differ materially from those authorized by the 2008 BSA Resolution in: floor area; and use of space.

Since Applicant's current, materially changed, plans do not comply with the 2008 BSA Resolution Resolution, they violate the Zoning Resolution.

Unless Applicant obtains BSA authorization for its dramatically different plans, this Challenge must be granted.



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APPLICANT—Friedman & Gotbaum, LLP, by Shelly S. Friedman, Esq., for Congregation Shearith Israel a/k/a Trustees of the Congregation Shearith Israel in the City of N.Y. a/k/a the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue.

SUBJECT—Application April 2, 2007—Variance (§72-21) to allow a nine (9) story residential/community facility building; the proposal is contrary to regulations for lot coverage (§24-11), rear yard (§24-36), base height, building height and setback (§23-633) and rear setback (§23-663). R8B and R10A districts.

PREMISES AFFECTED—6-10 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street, south side of West 70<sup>th</sup> Street, west of the corner formed by the intersection of Central Park West and West 70<sup>th</sup> Street, Block 1122, Lots 36 & 37, Borough of Manhattan.

COMMUNITY BOARD #7M

APPEARANCES—

For Applicant: Lori Cuisinier.

ACTION OF THE BOARD—Application granted on condition.

THE VOTE TO GRANT—

Affirmative: Chair Srinivasan, Vice-Chair Collins, Commissioner Ottley-Brown, Commissioner Hinkson and Commissioner Montanez.....5

Negative:.....0

THE RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the decision of the Manhattan Borough Commissioner, dated August 28, 2007,<sup>1</sup> acting on Department of Buildings Application No. 104250481, reads, in pertinent part:

1. "Proposed lot coverage for the interior portions of R8B & R10A exceeds the maximum allowed. This is contrary to Section 24-11/77-24. Proposed interior portion lot coverage is 0.80;
2. Proposed rear yard in R8B does not comply. 20'.00 provided instead of 30.00' contrary to Section 24-36;
3. Proposed rear yard in R10A interior portion does not comply. 20.—' provided instead of 30.00' contrary to Section 24-36;
4. Proposed initial setback in R8B does not comply. 12.00' provided instead of 15.00' contrary to Section 24-36;
5. Proposed base height in R8B does not comply. . . contrary to Section 23-633;

<sup>1</sup> The referenced August 28, 2007 decision supersedes a March 27, 2007 decision by the Department of Buildings which included eight objections, one of which was eliminated after the applicant modified the plans.

6. Proposed maximum building height in R8B does not comply. . . contrary to 23-66;

7. Proposed rear setback in an R8B does not comply. 6.67' provided instead of 10.00' contrary to Section 23-633;<sup>2</sup> and

WHEREAS, this is an application under ZR § 72-21, to permit, on a site partially within an R8B district and partially within an R10A district within the Upper West Side/ Central Park West Historic District, the proposed construction of a nine-story and cellar mixed-use community facility / residential building that does not comply with zoning parameters for lot coverage, rear yard, base height, building height, front setback, and rear yard setback contrary to ZR §§ 24-11, 77-24, 24-36, 23-66, and 23-633; and

WHEREAS, this application is brought on behalf of Congregation Shearith Israel, a not-for-profit religious institution (the "Synagogue"); and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on this application on November 27, 2007, after due notice by publication in the *City Record*, with continued hearings on February 12, 2008, April 15, 2008 and June 24, 2008, and then to decision on August 26, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the premises and surrounding area had site and neighborhood examinations by Chair Srinivasan, Vice-Chair Collins, Commissioner Hinkson, Commissioner Montanez, and Commissioner Ottley-Brown; and

WHEREAS, Community Board 7, Manhattan, recommends disapproval of this application; and

WHEREAS, a number of members of the Synagogue testified in support of the application; and

WHEREAS, a representative of New York State Senator Thomas K. Duane testified at hearing in opposition to the application; and

WHEREAS, a representative of New York State Assembly Member Richard N. Gottfried testified at hearing in opposition to the application; and

WHEREAS, a number of area residents testified in opposition to the application; and

<sup>2</sup> A letter dated January 28, 2008 to Chair Srinivasan from David Rosenberg, an attorney representing local residents, claims that a purported failure by the Department of Buildings ("DOB") Commissioner or the Manhattan Borough Commissioner to sign the above-referenced August 28, 2007 objections, as allegedly required by Section 666 of the New York City Charter (the "Charter"), divests the Board of jurisdiction to hear the instant application. However, the jurisdiction of the Board to hear an application for variances from zoning regulations, such as the instant application, is conferred by Charter Section 668, which does not require a letter of final determination executed by the DOB Commissioner or by an authorized DOB borough commissioner.

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WHEREAS, additionally, Landmark West! and a group of neighbors represented by counsel testified at hearing and made submissions into the record in opposition to the application (the "Opposition"); the arguments made by the Opposition related to the required findings for a variance, and are addressed below; and

WHEREAS, the subject zoning lot on which the Synagogue is located consists of Lots 36 and 37 within Block 1122 (the "site"); and

WHEREAS, the site has a total lot area of 17,286 square feet, with 172 feet of frontage along the south side of West 70<sup>th</sup> Street, and 100.5 feet of frontage on Central Park West; and

WHEREAS, the portion of the site that extends 125 feet west of Central Park West is located in an R10A zoning district; the remainder of the site is located within an R8B district; and

WHEREAS, the site is also located within the Upper West Side/ Central Park West Historic District; and

WHEREAS, Tax Lot 36 is occupied by the Synagogue, with a height of 75'-0", and a connected four-story parsonage house located at 99-100 Central Park West, with a total floor area of 27,760 sq. ft.; and

WHEREAS, Tax Lot 37 is occupied in part by a four-story Synagogue community house with 11,079 sq. ft. of floor area located at 6-10 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street (comprising approximately 40 percent of the tax lot area); the remainder of Lot 37 is vacant (comprising approximately 60 percent of the tax lot area) (the "Community House"); and

WHEREAS, the Community House is proposed to be demolished; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that Tax Lot 36 and Tax Lot 37 together constitute a single zoning lot under ZR § 12-10, as they have been in common ownership since 1965 (the "Zoning Lot"); and

WHEREAS, Tax Lot 37 is divided by a zoning district boundary, pursuant to 1984 zoning map and text amendments to the Zoning Resolution that relocated the former R8/R10 district boundary line to a depth of 47 feet within the lot; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further represents that the formation of the Zoning Lot predates the relocation of the zoning district boundary, and that development on the site is therefore entitled to utilize the zoning floor area averaging methodology provided for in ZR § 77-211, thereby allowing the zoning floor area to be distributed over the entire Zoning Lot; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that as 73 percent of the site is within an R10A zoning district, which permits an FAR of 10.0, and 27 percent of the site is within an R8B zoning district, which permits an FAR of 4.0, the averaging methodology allows for an overall site FAR of 8.36 and a maximum permitted zoning

floor area of 144,511 sq. ft.; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the site is currently built to an FAR of 2.25 and a floor area of 38,838 sq. ft.; and

WHEREAS, the applicant proposes a nine-story and cellar mixed-use building with community facility (Use Group 3) uses on two cellar levels and the lower four stories, and residential (Use Group 2) uses on five stories including a penthouse (the "proposed building"), which will be built on Tax Lot 37; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the community facility uses include: Synagogue lobby and reception space, a toddler program, adult education and Hebrew school classes, a caretaker's unit, and a Jewish day school; the upper five stories are proposed to be occupied by five market-rate residential condominium units; and

WHEREAS, the proposed building will have a total floor area of 42,406 sq. ft., comprising 20,054 sq. ft. of community facility floor area and 22,352 sq. ft. of residential floor area; and

WHEREAS, the proposed building will have a base height along West 70<sup>th</sup> Street of 95'-1" (60 feet is the maximum permitted in an R8B zoning district); with a front setback of 12'-0" (a 15'-0" setback is the minimum required in an R8B zoning district); a total height of 105'-10" (75'-0" is the maximum permitted in an R8B zone), a rear yard of 20'-0" for the second through fourth floors (30'-0" is the minimum required); a rear setback of 6'-8" (10'-0" is required in an R8B zone), and an interior lot coverage of 80 percent (70 percent is the maximum permitted lot coverage); and

WHEREAS, the Synagogue initially proposed a nine-story building with a total floor area of 42,961 sq. ft., a residential floor area of 22,966 sq. ft., and no court above the fifth floor (the "original proposed building"); and

WHEREAS, the Synagogue modified the proposal to provide a complying court at the north rear above the fifth floor, thereby reducing the floor plates of the sixth, seventh and eighth floors of the building by approximately 556 sq. ft. and reducing the floor plate of the ninth floor penthouse by approximately 58 sq. ft., for an overall reduction in the variance of the rear yard setback by 25 percent and a reduction in the residential floor area to 22,352 sq. ft.; and

WHEREAS, the Synagogue is seeking waivers of zoning regulations for lot coverage and rear yard to develop a community facility that can accommodate its religious mission, and is seeking waivers of zoning regulations pertaining to base height, total height, front setback, and rear setback to accommodate a market rate residential development that can generate a reasonable financial return; and

WHEREAS, as a religious and educational institution, the Synagogue is entitled to significant

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deference under the laws of the State of New York pertaining to proposed changes in zoning and is able to rely upon programmatic needs in support of the subject variance application (see Westchester Reform Temple v. Brown, 22 N.Y.2d 488 (1968)); and

WHEREAS, under ZR § 72-21(b), a not-for-profit institution is generally exempted from having to establish that the property for which a variance is sought could not otherwise achieve a reasonable financial return; and

WHEREAS, however, the instant application is for a mixed-use project in which approximately 50 percent of the proposed floor area will be devoted to a revenue-generating residential use which is not connected to the mission and program of the Synagogue; and

WHEREAS, under New York State law, a not-for-profit organization which seeks land use approvals for a commercial or revenue-generating use is not entitled to the deference that must be accorded to such an organization when it seeks to develop a project that is in furtherance of its mission (see Little Joseph Realty v. Babylon, 41 N.Y.2d 738 (1977); Foster v. Saylor, 85 A.D.2d 876 (4th Dep't 1981) and Roman Cath. Dioc. of Rockville Ctr v. Vill. Of Old Westbury, 170 Misc.2d 314 (1996); and

WHEREAS, consequently, prior Board decisions regarding applications for projects sponsored by not-for-profit religious or educational institutions which have included commercial or revenue-generating uses have included analysis of the hardship, financial return, and minimum variance findings under ZR § 72-21 (see BSA Cal. No. 315-02-BZ, applicant Touro College; BSA Cal. No. 179-03-BZ, applicant Torah Studies, Inc.; BSA Cal. No. 349-05-BZ, Church of the Resurrection; and BSA Cal. No. 194-03-BZ, applicant B'nos Menachem School); and

WHEREAS, therefore, as discussed in greater detail below, the Board subjected this application to the standard of review required under ZR § 72-21 for the discrete community facility and residential development uses, respectively, and evaluated whether the proposed residential development met all the findings required by ZR § 72-21, notwithstanding its sponsorship by a religious institution; and

ZR § 72-21 (a) – Unique Physical Conditions Finding

WHEREAS, under § 72-21 (a) of the Zoning Resolution, the Board must find that there are unique physical conditions inherent to the Zoning Lot which create practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship in strictly complying with the zoning requirements (the "(a) finding"); and

Community Facility Use

WHEREAS, the zoning district regulations limit lot coverage to 80 percent and require a rear yard of 30'-0"; and

WHEREAS, the proposed building will have the following program: (1) a multi-function room on the sub-cellar level with a capacity of 360 persons for the hosting of life cycle events and weddings and mechanical space; (2) dairy and meat kitchens, babysitting and storage space on the cellar level; (3) a synagogue lobby, rabbi's office and archive space on the first floor; (4) toddler classrooms on the second floor; (5) classrooms for the Synagogue's Hebrew School and Beit Rabban day school on the third floor; and (6) a caretaker's apartment and classrooms for adult education on the fourth floor; and

WHEREAS, the first floor will have 5,624 sq. ft. of community facility floor area, the second and third floor will each have 4,826.5 sq. ft. of community facility floor area, and the fourth floor will have 4,777 sq. ft. of community facility floor area, for a total of 20,054 sq. ft. of community facility floor area; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the variance request is necessitated by the programmatic needs of the Synagogue, and by the physical obsolescence and poorly configured floor plates of the existing Community House which constrain circulation and interfere with its religious programming; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the programmatic needs and mission of the Synagogue include an expansion of its lobby and ancillary space, an expanded toddler program expected to serve approximately 60 children, classroom space for 35 to 50 afternoon and weekend students in the Synagogue's Hebrew school and a projected 40 to 50 students in the Synagogue's adult education program, a residence for an onsite caretaker to ensure that the Synagogue's extensive collection of antiquities is protected against electrical, plumbing or heating malfunctions, and shared classrooms that will also accommodate the Beit Rabban day school; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the proposed building will also permit the growth of new religious, pastoral and educational programs to accommodate a congregation which has grown from 300 families to 550 families; and

WHEREAS, to accommodate these programmatic needs, the Synagogue is seeking lot coverage and rear yard waivers to provide four floors of community facility use in the proposed building; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that the Synagogue, as a religious institution, is entitled to substantial deference under the law of the State of New York as to zoning and as to its ability to rely upon programmatic needs in support of the subject variance application (see Cornell Univ. v. Bagnardi, 68 N.Y.2d 583 (1986)); and

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WHEREAS, however, in addition to its programmatic needs, the applicant also represents that the following site conditions create an unnecessary hardship in developing the site in compliance with applicable regulations as to lot coverage and yards: if the required 30'-0" rear yard and lot coverage were provided, the floor area of the community facility would be reduced by approximately 1,500 sq. ft.; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the required floor area cannot be accommodated within the as-of-right lot coverage and yard parameters and allow for efficient floor plates that will accommodate the Synagogue's programmatic needs, thus necessitating the requested waivers of these provisions; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that a complying building would necessitate a reduction in the size of three classrooms per floor, affecting nine proposed classrooms which would consequently be too narrow to accommodate the proposed students; the resultant floor plates would be small and inefficient with a significant portion of both space and floor area allocated toward circulation space, egress, and exits; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further states that the reduction in classroom floor area would consequently reduce the toddler program by approximately 14 children and reduce the size of the Synagogue's Hebrew School, Adult Education program and other programs and activities; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the requested yard and lot coverage waivers would enable the Synagogue to develop the site with a building with viable floor plates and adequate space for its needs; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition has argued that the Synagogue cannot satisfy the (a) finding based solely on its programmatic need and must still demonstrate that the site is burdened by a unique physical hardship in order to qualify for a variance; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding that the applicant has asserted that the site is also burdened with a physical hardship that constrains an as-of-right development, discussed below, the Board notes that the Opposition ignores 50 years of unwavering New York jurisprudence holding that zoning boards must accord religious institutions a presumption of moral, spiritual and educational benefit in evaluations of applications for zoning variances (see e.g., Diocese of Rochester v. Planning Bd., 1 N.Y.2d 508 (1956) (zoning board cannot wholly deny permit to build church in residential district; because such institutions further the morals and welfare of the community, zoning board must instead seek to accommodate their needs); see also Westchester Ref. Temple v. Brown, 22 N.Y.2d 488 (1968); and Islamic Soc. of Westchester v. Foley, 96 A.D. 2d 536 (2d Dep't 1983)), and therefore need not demonstrate

that the site is also encumbered by a physical hardship; and

WHEREAS, in support of its proposition that a religious institution must establish a physical hardship, the Opposition cites to decisions in Yeshiva & Mesivta Toras Chaim v. Rose (137 A.D.2d 710 (2d Dep't 1988)) and Bright Horizon House, Inc. v Zng. Bd. of Appeals of Henrietta (121 Misc.2d 703 (Sup. Ct. 1983)); and

WHEREAS, both decisions uphold the denial of variance applications based on findings that the contested proposals constituted neither religious uses, nor were they ancillary or accessory uses to a religious institution in which the principal use was as a house of worship, and are therefore irrelevant to the instant case; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the proposed Synagogue lobby space, expanded toddler program, Hebrew school and adult education program, caretaker's apartment, and accommodation of Beit Rabban day school constitute religious uses in furtherance of the Synagogue's program and mission; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition contends that the Synagogue's programmatic needs are too speculative to serve as the basis for an (a) finding; and

WHEREAS, in response to a request by the Board to document demand for the proposed programmatic floor area, the applicant submitted a detailed analysis of the program needs of the Synagogue on a space-by-space and time-allocated basis which confirms that the daily simultaneous use of the overwhelming majority of the spaces requires the proposed floor area and layout and associated waivers; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition argues, nonetheless, that the Synagogue's programmatic needs could be accommodated within an as-of-right building, or within existing buildings on the Synagogue's campus and that the proposed variances for the community facility use are unmerited and should consequently be denied; and

WHEREAS, specifically, the Opposition has contended that the Synagogue's programmatic needs could be accommodated within the existing parsonage house; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the narrow width of the parsonage house, at approximately 24'-0", would make it subject to the "sliver" limitations of ZR § 23-692 which limit the height of its development and, after deducting for the share of the footprint that would be dedicated to elevator and stairs, would generate little floor area; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further represents that development of the parsonage house would not address the circulation deficiencies of the synagogue and would block several dozen windows on the north elevation of 91 Central Park West; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that where a

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nonprofit organization has established the need to place its program in a particular location, it is not appropriate for a zoning board to second-guess that decision (see Guggenheim Neighbors v. Bd. of Estimate, June 10, 1988, N.Y. Sup. Ct., Index No. 29290/87), see also Jewish Recons. Syn. of No. Shore v. Roslyn Harbor, 38 N.Y.2d 283 (1975)); and

WHEREAS, furthermore, a zoning board may not wholly reject a request by a religious institution, but must instead seek to accommodate the planned religious use without causing the institution to incur excessive additional costs (see Islamic Soc. of Westchester v. Foley, 96 A.D.2d 536 (2d Dep't 1983)); and

WHEREAS, religious institutions are entitled to locate on their property facilities for other uses that are reasonably associated with their overall purposes and a day care center/ preschool has been found to constitute such a use (see Uni. Univ. Church v. Shorten, 63 Misc.2d 978, 982 (Sup. Ct. 1970)); and

WHEREAS, in submissions to the Board, the Opposition argues that the Beit Rabban school does not constitute a programmatic need entitled to deference as a religious use because it is not operated for or by the Synagogue; and

WHEREAS, however, it is well-established under New York law that religious use is not limited to houses of worship, but is defined as conduct with a 'religious purpose;' the operation of an educational facility on the property of a religious institution is construed to be a religious activity and a valid extension of the religious institution for zoning purposes, even if the school is operated by a separate corporate entity (see Slevin v. Long Isl. Jew. Med. Ctr., 66 Misc.2d 312, 317 (Sup. Ct. 1971)); and

WHEREAS, the applicant further states that the siting of the Beit Rabban school on the premises helps the Synagogue to attract congregants and thereby enlarge its congregation, which the courts have also found to constitute a religious activity (see Community Synagogue v. Bates, 1 N.Y.2d 445, 448 (1958)), in which the Court of Appeals stated, "[t]o limit a church to being merely a house of prayer and sacrifice would, in a large degree, be depriving the church of the opportunity of enlarging, perpetuating and strengthening itself and the congregation"); and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that the applicant has provided supportive evidence showing that, even without the Beit Rabban school, the floor area as well as the waivers to lot coverage and rear yard would be necessary to accommodate the Synagogue's programmatic needs; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the variance request is necessitated not only by its programmatic needs, but also by physical conditions on the subject site – namely – the need to retain and

preserve the existing landmarked Synagogue and by the obsolescence of the existing Community House; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that as-of-right development of the site is constrained by the existence of the landmarked Synagogue building which occupies 63 percent of the Zoning Lot footprint; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that because so much of its property is occupied by a building that cannot be disturbed, a relatively small portion of the site is available for development – largely limited to the westernmost portion of the Zoning Lot; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further represents that the physical obsolescence and poorly configured floorplates of the existing Community House constrain circulation and interfere with its religious programming and compromise the Synagogue's religious and educational mission, and that these limitations cannot be addressed through interior alterations; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the proposed building will provide new horizontal and vertical circulation systems to provide barrier-free access to its sanctuaries and ancillary facilities; and

WHEREAS, based upon the above, the Board finds that the aforementioned physical conditions, when considered in conjunction with the programmatic needs of Synagogue, create unnecessary hardship and practical difficulty in developing the site in compliance with the applicable zoning regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition argues that uniqueness is limited to the physical conditions of the Zoning Lot and that the obsolescence of an existing building or other building constraints therefore cannot fulfill the requirements of the (a) finding, while citing no support for such a proposition; and

WHEREAS, to the contrary, New York courts have found that unique physical conditions under Section 72-21(a) of the Zoning Resolution can refer to buildings as well as land (see Guggenheim Neighbors v. Board of Estimate, June 10, 1988, N.Y. Sup. Ct. Index No. 29290/87; see also, Homes for the Homeless v. BSA, 7/23/2004, N.Y.L.J. citing UOB Realty (USA) Ltd. v. Chin, 291 A.D.2d 248 (1<sup>st</sup> Dep't 2002); and, further, obsolescence of a building is well-established as a basis for a finding of uniqueness (see Matter of Commeo, Inc. v. Amelkin, 109 A.D.2d 794, 796 (2d Dep't 1985), and Polsinello v. Dwyer, 160 A.D. 2d 1056, 1058 (3d Dep't 1990) (condition creating hardship was land improved with a now-obsolete structure)); and

WHEREAS, in submissions to the Board, the Opposition has also contended that the Synagogue had failed to establish a financial need for the project as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that to be entitled to a variance, a religious or educational institution must establish that existing zoning requirements impair its ability to meet its programmatic needs; neither New

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York State law, nor ZR § 72-21, require a showing of financial need as a precondition to the granting of a variance to such an organization; and

WHEREAS, the applicant proposed the need to generate revenue for its mission as a programmatic need, New York law does not permit the generation of income to satisfy the programmatic need requirement of a not-for-profit organization, notwithstanding an intent to use the revenue to support a school or worship space; and

WHEREAS, further, in previous decisions, the Board has rejected the notion that revenue generation could satisfy the (a) finding for a variance application by a not-for-profit organization (see BSA Cal. No. 72-05-BZ, denial of use variance permitting operation by a religious institution of a catering facility in a residential district) and, therefore, requested that the applicant forgo such a justification in its submissions; and

WHEREAS, however, in numerous prior instances the Board has found that unique physical conditions, when considered in the aggregate and in conjunction with the programmatic needs of a not-for-profit organization, can create practical difficulties and unnecessary hardship in developing a site in strict conformity with the current zoning (see, e.g., BSA Cal. No. 145-07-BZ, approving variance of lot coverage requirements to permit development of a medical facility; BSA Cal. No. 209-07-BZ, approving bulk variance to permit enlargement of a school for disabled children; and 215-07-BZ, approving bulk variance to permit enlargement of a YMCA); and

#### Residential Use

WHEREAS, the building is proposed for a portion of the Zoning Lot comprised of Lot 37, with a lot area of approximately 6,400 sq. ft. (the "development site"); and

WHEREAS, proposed residential portion of the building is configured as follows: (1) mechanical space and accessory storage on the cellar level; (2) elevators and a small lobby on the first floor; (2) core building space on the second, third and fourth floors; and (3) a condominium unit on each of the fifth through eighth, and ninth (penthouse) floors, for a total of five units; and

WHEREAS, the first floor is proposed to have approximately 1,018 sq. ft. of residential floor area, the second through fourth floors will each have 325 sq. ft. of residential floor area, the fifth floor will have 4,512 sq. ft. of residential floor area, the sixth through eighth floors will each have approximately 4,347 sq. ft. of residential floor area and the ninth (penthouse) floor will have approximately 2,756 sq. ft., for a total residential floor area of approximately 22,352 sq. ft.; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that compliance with the zoning requirements for base

height, building height, and front and rear setback would allow a residential floor area of approximately 9,638 sq. ft.; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the following unique physical conditions create practical difficulties and unnecessary hardship in developing the subject site in compliance with underlying district regulations: (1) the development site's location on a Zoning Lot that is divided by a zoning district boundary; (2) the existence and dominance of a landmarked synagogue on the footprint of the Zoning Lot; and (3) the limitations on development imposed by the site's contextual zoning district regulations; and

WHEREAS, as to the development site's location on a zoning lot that is divided by a zoning district boundary, the applicant states that the development site is split between an eastern portion, comprising approximately 73 percent of the Zoning Lot, which is located within an R10A zoning district, and a western portion, comprising approximately 27 percent of the Zoning Lot, which is located in an R8B zoning district; and

WHEREAS, applicant represents that the division of the development site by a zoning district boundary constrains an as-of-right development by imposing different height limitations on the two respective portions of the lot; and

WHEREAS, in the R10A portion of the Zoning Lot, a total height of 185'-0" and maximum base height of 125'-0" are permitted; and

WHEREAS, in the R8B portion of the development site, a building is limited to a total height of 75'-0" and a maximum base height of 60'-0" with a setback of 15'-0"; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further represents that the requirements of the R8B district also limit the size of floor plates of a residential development; and

WHEREAS, in the R8B portion of the development site, a setback of 15'-0" is required at the 60 ft. maximum base height, and a 10'-0" rear setback is required; the applicant represents that a complying development would therefore be forced to set back from the street line at the mid-point between the fifth and sixth floors; and

WHEREAS, in the R10A portion of the development site, a 15'-0" setback is not required below the maximum base height of 125'-0", and a total height of 185'-0" is permitted, which would otherwise permit construction of a 16-story residential tower on the development site; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is constrained from building to the height that would otherwise be permitted as-of-right on the development site by the "sliver law" provisions of ZR § 23-692, which operate to limit the maximum base height of the building to 60'-0" because

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the frontage of the site within the R10A zoning district is less than 45 feet; and

WHEREAS, a diagram provided by the applicant indicates that less than two full stories of residential floor area would be permitted above a four-story community facility, if the R8B zoning district front and rear setbacks and height limitations were applied to the development site; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that several Zoning Resolution provisions recognize the constraints created by zoning district boundaries where different regulations apply to portions of the same zoning lot; and

WHEREAS, specifically, the Board notes that the provisions of ZR § 77-00, permitting the transfer of zoning lot floor area over a zoning district boundary for zoning lots created prior to their division by a zoning district boundary, recognize that there is a hardship to a property owner whose property becomes burdened by a district boundary which imposes differing requirements to portions of the same zoning lot; and

WHEREAS, the Board further notes that that the special permit provisions of ZR § 73-52 allow the extension of a district boundary line after a finding by the Board that relief is required from hardship created by the location of the district boundary line; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents, however, that because of the constraints imposed by the contextual zoning requirements and the sliver law, the Synagogue can transfer only a small share of its zoning lot area across the R8B district boundary; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further represents that the site is unique in being the only underdeveloped site overlapping the R10A/R8B district boundary line within a 20-block area to the north and south of the subject site; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further represents that 17 other residential zoning lots overlap the R10A/R8B district boundary line between West 65<sup>th</sup> Street and West 86<sup>th</sup> Street, but that none were characterized by a similar amount of surplus development rights; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that all the properties within the 22-block study area bisected by the district boundary line are developed to an FAR exceeding 10.0, while the subject Zoning Lot is developed to an FAR of 2.25; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition argues that the presence of a zoning district boundary within a lot is not a "unique physical condition" under the language of ZR § 72-21 and represents that four other properties are characterized by the same R10A/R8B zoning district boundary division within the area bounded by Central Park West and Columbus Avenue and 59<sup>th</sup> Street and 110<sup>th</sup> Street owned by religious or nonprofit institutions, identified as: (i) First Church of Christ Scientist, located at Central Park West at West 68<sup>th</sup> Street; (ii)

Universalist Church of New York, located at Central Park West at West 76<sup>th</sup> Street; (iii) New-York Historical Society, located at Central Park West at West 77<sup>th</sup> Street; and (iv) American Museum of Natural History, located at Central Park West at West 77<sup>th</sup> Street to West 81<sup>st</sup> Street; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that it has recognized that the location of zoning district boundary, in combination with other factors such as the size and shape of a lot and the presence of buildings on the site, may create an unnecessary hardship in realizing the development potential otherwise permitted by the zoning regulations (see BSA Cal. No. 358-05-BZ, applicant WR Group 434 Port Richmond Avenue, LLC; BSA Cal. No. 388-04-BZ, applicant DRD Development, Inc.; BSA Cal. No. 291-03-BZ, applicant 6202 & 6217 Realty Company; and 208-03-BZ, applicant Shell Road, LLC); and

WHEREAS, the Board further notes that the incidence of four sites within a 51-block area sharing the same "unique conditions" as the subject site would not, in and of itself, be sufficient to defeat a finding of uniqueness; and

WHEREAS, under New York law, a finding of uniqueness does not require that a given parcel be the only property so burdened by the condition(s) giving rise to the hardship, only that the condition is not so generally applicable as to dictate that the grant of a variance to all similarly situated properties would effect a material change in the district's zoning (see *Douglaston Civ. Assn. v. Klein*, 51 N.Y.2d 963, 965 (1980)); and

WHEREAS, as to the impact of the landmarked Congregation Shearith Israel synagogue building on the ability to develop an as-of-right development on the same zoning lot, the applicant states that the landmarked synagogue occupies nearly 63 percent of the Zoning Lot footprint; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further states that because so much of the Zoning Lot is occupied by a building that cannot be disturbed, only a relatively small portion of the site is available for development; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that only the area occupied by the parsonage house, located directly to the south of the Synagogue on Tax Lot 36, and the development site are available for development; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the narrow width of the parsonage house makes its development infeasible; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the area of development site, at approximately 6,400 sq. ft., constitutes only 37 percent of Zoning Lot area of the site; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that the site is significantly underdeveloped and that the location of

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the landmark Synagogue limits the developable portion of the site to the development site; and

WHEREAS, as to the limitations on development imposed by the site's location within the R8B contextual zoning district, the applicant represents the district's height limits and setback requirements, and the limitations imposed by ZR § 23-692, result in an inability to use the Synagogue's substantial surplus development rights; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that, as a result of these constraints, the Synagogue would be permitted to use a total of 28,274 sq. ft. for an as-of-right development, although it has approximately 116,752 sq. ft. in developable floor area; and

WHEREAS, the Synagogue further represents that, after development of the proposed building the Zoning Lot would be built to a floor area of 70,166 sq. ft. and an FAR of 4.36, although development of 144,511 sq. ft. of floor area and an FAR of 8.36 would be permitted as-of-right, and that approximately 74,345 sq. ft. of floor area will remain unused; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition contends that the inability of the Synagogue to use its development rights is not a hardship under ZR § 72-21 because a religious institution lacks the protected property interest in the monetization of its air rights that a private owner might have, citing Matter of Soc. for Ethical Cult. v. Spatt, 51 N.Y.2d 449 (1980); and

WHEREAS, the Opposition further contends that the inability of the Synagogue to use its development rights is not a hardship because there is no fixed entitlement to use air rights contrary to the bulk limitations of a zoning district; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that Spatt concerns whether the landmark designation of a religious property imposes an unconstitutional taking or an interference with the free exercise of religion, and is inapplicable to a case in which a religious institution merely seeks the same entitlement to develop its property possessed by any other private owner; and

WHEREAS, furthermore, Spatt does not stand for the proposition that government land use regulation may impose a greater burden on a religious institution than on a private owner; indeed, the court noted that the Ethical Culture Society, like any similarly situated owner, retained the right to generate a reasonable return from its property by the transfer of its excess development rights (see 51 N.Y.2d at 455, FN1); and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that the Zoning Resolution includes several provisions permitting the utilization or transfer of available development rights from a landmark building within the lot on which it is located or to an adjacent lot, and

WHEREAS, the Board further notes that while a nonprofit organization is entitled to no special deference for a development that is unrelated to its

mission, it would be improper to impose a heavier burden on its ability to develop its property than would be imposed on a private owner; and

WHEREAS, the Board agrees that the unique physical conditions cited above, when considered in the aggregate and in light of the Synagogue's programmatic needs, create practical difficulties and unnecessary hardship in developing the site in strict compliance with the applicable zoning regulations; thereby meeting the required finding under ZR § 72-21(a); and ZR § 72-21 (b) – Financial Return Finding

WHEREAS, under ZR § 72-21 (b), the Board must establish that the physical conditions of the site preclude any reasonable possibility that its development in strict conformity with the zoning requirements will yield a reasonable return, and that the grant of a variance is therefore necessary to realize a reasonable return (the "(b) finding"), unless the applicant is a nonprofit organization, in which case the (b) finding is not required for the granting of a variance; and

#### Community Facility Use

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that it need not address the (b) finding since it is a not-for-profit religious institution and the community facility use will be in furtherance of its not-for-profit mission; and

#### Residential Development

WHEREAS, under New York State law, a not-for-profit organization which seeks land use approvals for a commercial or revenue-generating use is not entitled to the deference that must be accorded to such an organization when it seeks to develop a project that is in furtherance of its mission (see Little Joseph Realty v. Babylon, 41 N.Y.2d 738 (1977); (municipal agency was required to make the variance findings because proposed use would be operated solely by and for the benefit of a private entrepreneur); Foster v. Saylor, 85 A.D.2d 876 (4<sup>th</sup> Dep't 1981) (variance upheld permitting office and limited industrial use of former school building after district established inability to develop for a conforming use or otherwise realize a financial return on the property as zoned); and Roman Cath. Dioc. of Rockville Ctr v. Vill. Of Old Westbury, 170 Misc.2d 314 (1996) (cemetery to be operated by church was found to constitute a commercial use)); and

WHEREAS, the residential development was not proposed to meet its programmatic needs, the Board therefore directed the applicant to perform a financial feasibility study evaluating the ability of the Synagogue to realize a reasonable financial return from as-of-right residential development of the site, despite the fact that it is a not-for-profit religious institution; and

WHEREAS, the applicant initially submitted a feasibility study that analyzed: (1) an as-of-right community facility/residential building within an R8B envelope (the "as-of-right building"); (2) an as-of-right



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residential building with 4.0 FAR; (3) the original proposed building; and (4) a lesser variance community facility/residential building; and

WHEREAS, at hearing, the Board questioned why the analysis included the community facility floor area and asked the applicant to revise the financial analysis to eliminate the value of the floor area attributable to the community facility from the site value and to evaluate an as-of-right development; and

WHEREAS, in response, the applicant revised the financial analysis to analyze: (1) the as-of-right building; (2) the as-of-right residential building with 4.0 FAR; (3) the original proposed building; (4) the lesser variance community facility/residential building; and (5) an as-of-right community facility/residential tower building, using the modified the site value; and

WHEREAS, the feasibility study indicated that the as-of-right scenarios and lesser variance community facility/residential building, would not result in a reasonable financial return and that, of the five scenarios only the original proposed building would result in a reasonable return; and

WHEREAS, it was subsequently determined that a tower configuration in the R10A portion of the Zoning Lot was contrary to ZR § 73-692 (the "sliver law") and therefore that the as-of-right community facility/residential tower building could not represent an as-of-right development; the Board then questioned the basis for the previous valuation of the development rights and requested that the applicant recalculate the site value using only R8 and R8B sales; and

WHEREAS, the Board also requested the applicant to evaluate the feasibility of providing a complying court to the rear above the fifth floor of the original proposed building; and

WHEREAS, applicant subsequently analyzed the financial feasibility of: (i) the proposed building (the original proposed building with a complying court); (ii) an eight-story building with a complying court (the "eight-story building"); and (iii) a seven-story building with penthouse and complying court (the "seven-story building"), using the revised site value; the modified analysis concluded that of the three scenarios, only the proposed building was feasible; and

WHEREAS, at hearing, the Board raised questions as to the how the space attributable to the building's rear terraces had been treated in the financial feasibility analysis; and

WHEREAS, in a written response, the applicant stated that the rear terraces on the fifth and sixth floors had not originally been considered as accessible open spaces and were therefore not included in the sales price as sellable terrace areas of the appertaining units; the applicant provided an alternative analysis considering the rear terraces as sellable outdoor terrace area and revised the sales prices of the two units

accordingly; and

WHEREAS, at hearing, the Board also asked the applicant to explain the calculation of the ratio of sellable floor area gross square footage (the "efficiency ratio") for each of the following scenarios: the proposed building, the eight-story building, the seven-story building, and the as-of-right building; and

WHEREAS, in a subsequent submission, the applicant provided a chart identifying the efficiency ratios for each respective scenario, and explained that the architects had calculated the sellable area for each by determining the overall area of the building and then subtracting the exterior walls, the lobby, the elevator core and stairs, hallways, elevator overrun and terraces from each respective scenario; and

WHEREAS, the applicant also submitted a revised analysis of the as-of-right building using the revised estimated value of the property; this analysis showed that the revised as-of-right alternative would result in substantial loss; and

WHEREAS, in a submission, the Opposition questioned the use of comparable sales prices based on property values established for the period of mid-2006 to mid-2007, rather than using more recent comparable sales prices, and questioned the adjustments made by the applicant to those sales prices; and

WHEREAS, in a written response, the applicant pointed out that, to allow for comparison of earlier to later analyses, it is BSA practice to establish sales comparables from the initial feasibility analysis to serve as the baseline, and then to adjust those sales prices in subsequent revisions to reflect intervening changes in the market; the applicant also stated that sales prices indicated for units on higher floors reflected the premium price units generated by such units compared to the average sales price for comparable units on lower floors; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition also questioned the choice of methodology used by the applicant, which calculated the financial return based on profits, contending that it should have been based instead on the projected return on equity, and further contended that the applicant's treatment of the property acquisition costs distorted the analysis; and

WHEREAS, in response to the questions raised by the Opposition concerning the methodology used to calculate the rate of return, the applicant states that it used a return on profit model which considered the profit or loss from net sales proceeds less the total project development cost on an unleveraged basis, rather than evaluating the project's return on equity on a leveraged basis; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further stated that a return on equity methodology is characteristically used for income producing residential or commercial rental projects, whereas the calculation of a rate of return based

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on profits is typically used on an unleveraged basis for condominium or home sale analyses and would therefore be more appropriate for a residential project, such as that proposed by the subject application; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that a return on profit model which evaluates profit or loss on an unleveraged basis is the customary model used to evaluate the feasibility of market-rate residential condominium developments; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition also raised concerns as to the omission of the income from the Beit Rabban school from the feasibility study; and

WHEREAS, in response to concerns raised by the Opposition as to why the feasibility study omitted the income from the Beit Rabban school, a submission by the applicant states that the projected market rent for community facility use was provided to the Board in an earlier submission and that the cost of development far exceeded the potential rental income from the community facility portion of the development; and

WHEREAS, further, the Board notes that it requested that costs, value and revenue attributable to the community facility be eliminated from the financial feasibility analysis to allow a clearer depiction of the feasibility of the proposed residential development and of lesser variance and as-of-right alternatives; and

WHEREAS, based upon its review of the applicant's submissions, the Board has determined that because of the subject site's unique physical conditions, there is no reasonable possibility that development in strict compliance with applicable zoning requirements would provide a reasonable return; and

ZR § 72-21 (c) – Neighborhood Character Finding

WHEREAS, as pertains to the (c) finding under ZR § 72-21, the Board is required to find that the grant of the variance will not alter the essential neighborhood character, impair the use or development of adjacent property, or be detrimental to the public welfare; and

WHEREAS, because the variances sought to permit the community facility use differ from the variances sought to permit the proposed residential use, the potential affects on neighborhood character of each respective set of proposed variances are discussed separately below; and  
Community Facility Use

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the proposed rear yard and lot coverage variances permitting the community facility use will not negatively affect the character of the neighborhood, nor affect adjacent uses; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the proposed waivers would allow the community facility to encroach into the rear yard by ten feet, to a height of approximately 49 feet; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that, as a community facility, the Synagogue would be permitted to build to the rear lot line up to a height of 23 feet; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the affect of the encroachment into the rear yard is partly offset by the depths of the yards of the adjacent buildings to its rear; and

WHEREAS, the Board conducted an environmental review of the proposed action and found that it would not have significant adverse impacts on the surrounding neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition disputes the findings of the Environmental Assessment Statement ("EAS") and contends that the expanded toddler program, and the life cycle events and weddings held in the multi-purpose room of the lower cellar level of the proposed community facility would produce significant adverse traffic, solid waste, and noise impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that the additional traffic and noise created by the expanded toddler program – which is projected to grow from 20 children to 60 children daily – falls below the CEQR threshold for potential environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Board further notes that the waivers of lot coverage and rear yard requirements are requested to meet the Synagogue's need for additional classroom space and that the sub-cellar multi-purpose room represents an as-of-right use; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the proposed multi-function room would result in an estimated 22 to 30 life cycle events and weddings over and above those currently held; and

WHEREAS, with respect to traffic, the applicant states that life cycle events would generate no additional traffic impacts because they are held on the Sabbath and, as Congregation Shearith Israel is an Orthodox synagogue, members and guests would not drive or ride to these events in motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further states that significant traffic impacts are not expected from the increased number of weddings, because they are generally held on weekends during off-peak periods when traffic is typically lighter, or from the expanded toddler program, which is not expected to result in a substantial number of new vehicle trips during the peak hours; and

WHEREAS, with respect to solid waste, the EAS estimated the solid waste attributable to the entirety of the proposed building, including the occupants of the residential portion and the students in the school, and conservatively assumed full occupancy of the multi-function room (at 360 persons); and

WHEREAS, the estimates of solid waste generation found that the amount of projected additional waste represented a small amount, relative to the amount of solid waste collected weekly on a given route by the Department of Sanitation, and would not

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affect the City's ability to provide trash collection services; and

WHEREAS, the Synagogue states that trash from multi-purpose room events will be stored within a refrigerated area within the proposed building and, if necessary, will be removed by a private carter on the morning following each event; and

WHEREAS, at the Board's direction, the applicant submitted revised plans showing the cellar location of the refrigerated trash storage area; and

WHEREAS, with respect to noise, as the multi-purpose room is proposed for the sub-cellar of the proposed building, even at maximum capacity it is not expected to cause significant noise impacts; and

WHEREAS, as held in Westchester Reform Temple v. Brown (22 N.Y.2d 488 (1968)), a religious institution's application is entitled to deference unless significant adverse effects upon the health, safety, or welfare of the community are documented (see also Jewish Recons. Syn. of No. Shore v. Roslyn Harbor, 38 N.Y.2d 283 (1975)); and

WHEREAS, the Opposition has raised general concerns about disruption to the character of the surrounding neighborhood, but has presented no evidence to the Board supporting the alleged traffic, solid waste and noise impacts of the proposed community facility; and

WHEREAS, the detrimental effects alleged by the Opposition largely concern the purported impact of events held in the multi-purpose room which, as noted above, is permitted as-of-right; and

#### Residential Use

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the proposed variances to height and setback permitting the residential use will not negatively affect the character of the neighborhood, nor affect adjacent uses; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the proposed base height waiver and front setback waivers of the R8B zoning requirements allow the building to rise to a height of approximately 94'-10" along the West 70<sup>th</sup> Street street-line, before setting back by 12'-0"; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further states that the R8B zoning regulations limit the base height to 60 feet, at which point the building must set back by a minimum of 15'-0"; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the proposed waiver of maximum building height will allow a total height of approximately 105'-10", instead of the maximum building height of 75'-0" permitted in an R8B district; and

WHEREAS, the applicant also seeks a rear setback of 6'-8", instead of the 10'-0" rear setback required in an R8B district; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the front and rear setbacks are required because the enlargement

would rise upward and extend from the existing front and rear walls; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the proposed base height, wall height and front and rear setbacks are compatible with neighborhood character; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that a Certificate of Appropriateness approving the design for the proposed building was issued by the Landmarks Preservation Commission on March 14, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition raised issues at hearing concerning the scale of the proposed building and its compatibility to the neighborhood context; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the proposed bulk and height of the building is consistent with the height and bulk of neighboring buildings, and that the subject site is flanked by a nine-story building at 18 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street which has a base height of approximately 95 ft. with no setback, and an FAR of 7.23; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further represents that the building located at 101 Central Park West, directly to its north, has a height of 15 stories and an FAR of 13.92; and that the building located directly to its south, at 91 Central Park West, has a height of 13 stories and an FAR of 13.03; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that, at nine stories in height, the building would be comparable in size to the adjacent nine-story building located at 18 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street, while remaining shorter than the 15-story and 13-story buildings located within 60 feet of the site; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition also contends that the proposed nine-story building disrupts the mid-block character of West 70<sup>th</sup> Street and thereby diminishes the visual distinction between the low-rise mid-block area and the higher scale along Central Park West; and

WHEREAS, the applicant submitted a streetscape of West 70<sup>th</sup> Street indicating that the street wall of the subject building matches that of the adjacent building at 18 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street and that no disruption to the midblock character is created by the proposed building; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition also contends that approval of the proposed height waiver will create a precedent for the construction of more mid-block high-rise buildings; and

WHEREAS, as discussed above, the Opposition has identified four sites within a 51-block area bounded by Central Park West and Columbus Avenue, and 59<sup>th</sup> Street and 110<sup>th</sup> Street that purportedly could seek variances permitting midblock buildings which do not comply with the requirements of the R8B zoning district; and

WHEREAS, an analysis submitted by the applicant in response found that none of the four sites identified by the Opposition shared the same potential for mid-block development as the subject site; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition argues that the

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proposed building will significantly diminish the accessibility to light and air of its adjacent buildings; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition contended specifically that the proposed building abuts the easterly wall and court of the building located at 18 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street, thereby eliminating natural light and views from seven eastern facing apartments which would not be blocked by an as-of-right building; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition further argues that the proposed building will cut off natural lighting to apartments in the building located at 91 Central Park West and diminish light to apartments in the rear of the building located at 9 West 69<sup>th</sup> Street, and that the consequentially diminished light and views will reduce the market values of the affected apartments; and

WHEREAS, in response the applicant noted that lot line windows cannot be used to satisfy light and air requirements and, therefore, rooms which depend solely on lot line windows for light and air were necessarily created illegally and the occupants lack a legally protected right to their maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further notes that an owner of real property also has no protected right in a view; and

WHEREAS, nonetheless, the Board directed the applicant to provide a fully compliant outer court to the sixth through eighth floors of the building, thereby retaining three more lot line windows than originally proposed; and

WHEREAS, the applicant submitted revised plans in response showing a compliant outer court; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition asserts that the proposed building would cast shadows on the midblock of West 70<sup>th</sup> Street; and

WHEREAS, CEQR regulations provide that an adverse shadow impact is considered to occur when the shadow from a proposed project falls upon a publicly accessible open space, a historic landscape, or other historic resource, if the features that make the resource significant depend on sunlight, or if the shadow falls on an important natural feature and adversely affects its uses or threatens the survival of important vegetation, and that shadows on streets and sidewalks or on other buildings are not considered significant under CEQR; and

WHEREAS, a submission by the applicant states that that no publicly accessible open space or historic resources are located in the mid-block area of West 70<sup>th</sup> Street; thus any incremental shadows in this area would not constitute a significant impact on the surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, a shadow study submitted by the applicant compared the shadows cast by the existing building to those cast by the proposed new building to identify incremental shadows that would be cast by the

new building that are not cast presently; and

WHEREAS, the EAS analyzed the potential shadow impacts on publicly accessible open space and historic resources and found that no significant impacts would occur; and

WHEREAS, the applicant evaluated shadows cast over the course of a full year, with particular attention to December 21, when shadows are longest, March 21 and September 21 (vernal and autumnal equinoxes) and June 21, when shadows are shortest, disregarding the shadows cast by existing buildings, and found that the proposed building casts few incremental shadows, and those that are cast are insignificant in size; and

WHEREAS, specifically, the shadow study of the EAS found that the building would cast a small incremental shadow on Central Park in the late afternoon in the spring and summer that would fall onto a grassy area and path where no benches or other recreational equipment are present; and

WHEREAS, based upon the above, the Board finds that neither the proposed community facility use, nor the proposed residential use, will alter the essential character of the surrounding neighborhood or impair the use or development of adjacent properties, or be detrimental to the public welfare; and

ZR § 72-21 (d) - Self Created Hardship Finding

WHEREAS, as pertains to the (d) finding under ZR § 72-21, the Board is required to find that the practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship burdening the site have not been created by the owner or by a predecessor in title; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the unnecessary hardship encountered by compliance with the zoning regulations is inherent to the site's unique physical conditions: (1) the existence and dominance of a landmarked synagogue on the footprint of the Zoning Lot, (2) the site's location on a zoning lot that is divided by a zoning district boundary; and (3) the limitations on development imposed by the site's contextual zoning district; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further states that these conditions originate with the landmarking of its Synagogue building and with the 1984 rezoning of the site; and

WHEREAS, based on the above, the Board therefore finds that the hardship herein was not created by the owner or by a predecessor in title; and

ZR § 72-21 (e) - Minimum Variance Finding

WHEREAS, as pertains to the (e) finding under ZR § 72-21, the Board is required to find that the variance sought is the minimum necessary to afford relief; and

WHEREAS, the original proposed building of the Synagogue had no rear court above the fifth floor, and

WHEREAS, in response to concerns raised by the residents of the adjacent building, the Board directed the applicant to provide a fully compliant outer court to the

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sixth through eighth floors of the building, thereby retaining access to light and air of three additional lot line windows; and

WHEREAS, the applicant modified the proposal to provide a complying court at the north rear above the fifth floor, thereby reducing the floor plates of the sixth, seventh and eighth floors of the building by approximately 556 sq. ft. and reducing the floor plate of the ninth floor penthouse by approximately 58 sq. ft., for an overall reduction in the variance of the rear yard setback of 25 percent; and

WHEREAS, during the hearing process, the Board also directed the applicant to assess the feasibility of several lesser variance scenarios; and

WHEREAS, financial analyses submitted by the applicant established that none of these alternatives yielded a reasonable financial return; and

WHEREAS, however, the Opposition argues that the minimum variance finding is no variance because the building could be developed as a smaller as-of-right mixed-use community facility/ residential building that achieved its programmatic mission, improved the circulation of its worship space and produced some residential units; and

WHEREAS, the Synagogue has fully established its programmatic need for the proposed building and the nexus of the proposed uses with its religious mission; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes again that a zoning board must accommodate a proposal by a religious or educational institution for a project in furtherance of its mission, unless the proposed project is shown to have significant and measurable detrimental impacts on surrounding residents (See Westchester Ref. Temple v. Brown, 22 N.Y.2d 488 (1968); Islamic Soc. of Westchester v. Foley, 96 A.D. 2d 536 (2d Dep't 1983); and Jewish Recons. Synagogue of No. Shore v. Roslyn Harbor, 38 N.Y.2d 283 (1975)); and

WHEREAS, the Opposition has not established such impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition may have raised other issues that are not specifically addressed herein, the Board has determined that all cognizable issues with respect to the required variance findings or CEQR review are addressed by the record; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the requested lot coverage and rear yard waivers are the minimum necessary to allow the applicant to fulfill its programmatic needs and that the front setback, rear setback, base height and building height waivers are the minimum necessary to allow it to achieve a reasonable financial return; and

WHEREAS, thus, the Board has determined that the evidence in the record supports the findings required to be made under ZR § 72-21; and

WHEREAS, the project is classified as a Type I action pursuant to 6NYCRR, Part 617; and

WHEREAS, the Board has conducted an environmental review of the proposed action and has documented relevant information about the project in the Final Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS) CEQR No. 07BSA071M dated May 13, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the EAS documents that the project as proposed would not have significant adverse impacts on Land Use, Zoning, and Public Policy; Socioeconomic Conditions; Community Facilities and Services; Open Space; Shadows; Historic Resources; Urban Design and Visual Resources; Neighborhood Character; Natural Resources; Waterfront Revitalization Program; Infrastructure; Solid Waste and Sanitation Services; Energy; Traffic and Parking; Transit and Pedestrians; Air Quality; Noise; and Public Health; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the proposed action will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

*Therefore it is Resolved* that the Board of Standards and Appeals issues a Negative Declaration with conditions as stipulated below, prepared in accordance with Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law and 6 NYCRR Part 617, the Rules of Procedure for City Environmental Quality Review and Executive Order No. 91 of 1977, as amended, and makes the required findings under ZR § 72-21, to permit, on a site partially within an R8B district and partially within an R10A district within the Upper West Side/ Central Park West Historic District, the proposed construction of a nine-story and cellar mixed-use community facility/ residential building that does not comply with zoning parameters for lot coverage, rear yard, base height, building height, front setback and rear setback contrary to ZR §§ 24-11, 77-24, 24-36, 23-66, and 23-633; *on condition* that any and all work shall substantially conform to drawings as they apply to the objections above noted, filed with this application marked "Received May 13, 2008"—nineteen (19) sheets and "Received July 8, 2008"—one (1) sheet; and *on further condition*:

THAT the parameters of the proposed building shall be as follows: a total floor area of 42,406 sq. ft.; a community facility floor area of 20,054 sq. ft.; a residential floor area of 22,352 sq. ft.; a base height of 95'-1"; with a front setback of 12'-0"; a total height of 105'-10"; a rear yard of 20'-0"; a rear setback of 6'-8"; and an interior lot coverage of 0.80; and

THAT the applicant shall obtain an updated Certificate of Appropriateness from the Landmarks Preservation Commission prior to any building permit being issued by the Department of Buildings;

THAT refuse generated by the Synagogue shall be stored in a refrigerated vault within the building, as shown on the BSA-approved plans;

74-07-BZ

CEQR #07-BSA-071M

THAT this approval is limited to the relief granted by the Board, in response to specifically cited and filed DOB/other jurisdiction objection(s) only;

THAT the approved plans shall be considered approved only for the portions related to the specific relief granted;

THAT substantial construction be completed in accordance with ZR § 72-23;

THAT the Department of Buildings must ensure compliance with all other applicable provisions of the Zoning Resolution, the Administrative Code, and any other relevant laws under its jurisdiction irrespective of plan(s)/configuration(s) not related to the relief granted.

Adopted by the Board of Standards and Appeals, August 26, 2008.

A true copy of resolution adopted by the Board of Standards and Appeals, August 26, 2008.  
Printed in Bulletin No. 35, Vol. 93.

Copies Sent

To Applicant

Fire Com'r,

Borough Com'r.

# EXHIBIT D

## TRANSMISSION VERIFICATION REPORT

TIME : 06/18/2015 16:19  
 NAME :  
 FAX :  
 TEL :  
 SER.# : BR062J382621

DATE, TIME 06/18 16:10  
 FAX NO./NAME 12125663030  
 DURATION 00:08:50  
 PAGE(S) 22  
 RESULT OK  
 MODE STANDARD  
 ECM



**Zoning Challenge  
 and Appeal Form**  
 (for approved applications)

*Must be typewritten*

<b>1</b>	<b>Property Information</b> <i>Required for all challenges.</i>			
	BIS Job Number 121328919	BIS Document Number	BIN: 1028510	
	Borough Manhattan	House No(s) 8-10	Street Name	West 70th Street
<b>2</b>	<b>Challenger Information</b> <i>Optional.</i>			
	<i>Note to all challengers: This form will be scanned and posted to the Department's website.</i>			
	Last Name Rosenberg	First Name David	Middle Initial	
	Affiliated Organization Landmark Westl and others			
	E-Mail dr@mrdllp.com		Contact Number 212 755 7500	
<b>3</b>	<b>Description of Challenge</b> <i>Required for all challenges.</i>			
	<i>Note: Use this form only for challenges related to the Zoning Resolution</i>			
	Select one: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial challenge <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal to a previously denied challenge (denied challenge must be attached)			
	Indicate total number of pages submitted with challenge, including attachments: (attachment may not be larger than 11" x 17")			
	Indicate relevant Zoning Resolution section(s) below, <i>Improper citation of the Zoning Resolution may affect the processing and review of this challenge.</i>			
	Section 24-11/77-24; Section 24-36; Section 23-633; and Section 23-66			
	Describe the challenge in detail below: (continue on page 2 if additional space is required)			

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED.



# EXHIBIT E

MARCUS ROSENBERG & DIAMOND LLP

488 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

Telephone: (212) 755-7500  
Telefax: (212) 755-8713

July 2, 2015

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

Hon. Rick D. Chandler, P.E.  
Commissioner  
City of New York Department of Buildings  
280 Broadway, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10007

Re: 8-10 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10023  
Block 1122; Lot 37  
DOB BIN Number 1028510  
Job No. 121328919  
Our File Number: 89628.003

Dear Commissioner Chandler:

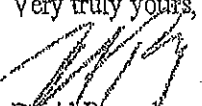
On behalf of Landmark West! and various neighboring landowners and other interested citizens, I timely filed a Zoning Challenge with respect to plans for the above parcel approved by the Department of Buildings, ("DOB") May 4, 2015.

To date, I have received no acknowledgement from DOB, nor is the Zoning Challenge listed on the DOB BIS site.

Please immediately confirm the timely filing of the Zoning Challenge and inform me of the steps which will be pursued by DOB with respect thereto and the timing of each such step.

Thank you for your anticipated assistance.

Very truly yours,

  
David Rosenberg

DR/vm

Hon. Rick D. Chandler, P.E.  
July 2, 2015  
Page 2

cc: Martin Rebholz, R.A.  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner

Mona Sehgal, Esq.  
General Counsel  
Department of Buildings

Customer Service  
NYC Department of Buildings

Landmark West!  
Alan Sugerman, Esq.

# EXHIBIT F

MARCUS ROSENBERG & DIAMOND LLP

488 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

Telephone: (212) 755-7500

Telefax: (212) 755-8713

July 20, 2015

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

Hon. Rick D. Chandler, P.E.  
Commissioner  
City of New York Department of Buildings  
280 Broadway, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10007

Re: 8-10 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10023  
Block 1122; Lot 37  
DOB BIN Number 1028510  
Job No. 121328919  
Our File Number: 89628.003

Dear Commissioner Chandler:

Sent herewith is a copy of my July 2, 2015 letter requesting confirmation of receipt of my May 4, 2015 timely filed Zoning Challenge with respect to the above property.

To date, more than two months after the filing of the Zoning Challenge, no confirmation of the filing has been received; no indication that this Zoning Challenge and one filed by another party were received by DOB, and are being reviewed, appears on the DOB BIS site; and no response has been received to my letter sent to you more than two weeks ago.

I recognize that you and other DOB employees are busy with many matters, but DOB's mission statement confirms its intent to "improve performance and delivery procedures that are streamlined, understandable and transparent."

Similarly, when Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and your predecessor, Commissioner Robert D. LiMandri, announced the creation of the Development Challenge Program in February 2009, they described it as fulfilling the City's commitment to "increasing transparency, compliance and certainly about Neighborhood Development Projects."

Hon. Rick D. Chandler, P.E.  
July 20, 2015  
Page 2

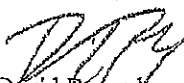
Major Bloomberg added: "The reforms we are detailing today will inject a much needed dose of transparency and accountability into a critical area of construction and development – zoning compliance... These reforms increase transparency and increase accountability across the board."

The intended purposes of the Development Challenge Program will be frustrated unless DOB provides transparency and responsiveness to its intended beneficiaries.

Under the circumstances, this is to request: a formal confirmation of all challenges filed with respect to this property; and updating the DOB BIS website to immediately note the receipt of Zoning/Development Challenges.

Thank you for your anticipated attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,

  
David Rosenberg

DR/vm  
Encl.

cc: Hon. Bill de Blasio  
Mayor of the City of New York

Thomas Fariello, R.A.  
First Deputy Commissioner

Martin Rebholz, R.A.  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner

Philip A. Monaco, Esq.  
Chief of Staff

Mona Sehgal, Esq.  
General Counsel

DOB Customer Service

Publicchallenge@buildings.nyc.gov

Landmark West!

Alan Sugerman, Esq.

# EXHIBIT G

MARCUS ROSENBERG & DIAMOND LLP

488 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

Telephone: (212) 755-7500  
Telefax: (212) 755-8713

August 4, 2015

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

Hon. Rick D. Chandler, P.E.  
Commissioner  
City of New York Department of Buildings  
280 Broadway, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10007

Re: 8-10 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10023  
Block 1122; Lot 37  
DOB BIN Number 1028510  
Job No. 121328919  
Our File Number: 89628.003

Dear Commissioner Chandler:

Three months have passed since I timely submitted a ~~May~~ 4, 2015 Zoning/Development Challenge with respect to the above property.

Two months have passed since I sent my first letter requesting confirmation of receipt of my Zoning/Development Challenge and those submitted by others. Copies of my prior letters are enclosed.

This is my third letter to you requesting a response.

While I hesitate to further impose on you, the BIS site has no indication that any Zoning/Development Challenge has been filed.

Please have someone confirm the Challenges that were filed or, preferably, show them on the BIS site.

Thank you for your anticipated assistance.

Very truly yours,

  
David Rosenberg

DR/tp  
Encls.



cc: Hon. Bill de Blasio  
Mayor of the City of New York

Thomas Fariello, R.A.  
First Deputy Commissioner

Martin Rebholz, R.A.  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner

Philip A. Monaco, Esq.  
Chief of Staff

Mona Sehgal, Esq.  
General Counsel

DOB Customer Service

[Publicchallenge@buildings.nyc.gov](mailto:Publicchallenge@buildings.nyc.gov)

Landmark West!

Alan Sugerman, Esq.

# EXHIBIT H

☒ [CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR BUILDINGS NEWS](#)

NYC Department of Buildings

## Challenge Results

## No Scanned Challenge Results Found For This JOB

When multiple challenge documents are listed, click on the one with latest "Date Scanned" Date to see the most current version.

For more information on Zoning Diagrams & Challenge Process, click [here](#).

Premises: 8 WEST 70 STREET MANHATTAN

Job No: 121328919BIN: 1028510 Block: 1122 Lot: 37

Job Type: NB - NEW BUILDING

Zoning DocumentsChallenge Period StatusFORM NAME ↓Form Doc PAA  
ID No.DATE  
SCANNEDSCAN  
CODE

If you have any questions please review these [Frequently Asked Questions](#), the [Glossary](#), or call the 311 Citizen Service Center by dialing 311 or (212) NEW YORK outside of New York City.

# EXHIBIT I

**MARCUS ROSENBERG & DIAMOND LLP**

488 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

Telephone: (212) 755-7500

Telefax: (212) 755-8713

David Rosenberg, Partner  
Personal E-mail Address:  
DR@MRDLLP.COM

August 31, 2015

**Via Hand Delivery and Federal Express**

Hon. Rick D. Chandler, P.E.  
Commissioner  
City of New York Department of Buildings  
280 Broadway, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10007

Re: 8-10 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10023  
Block 1122; Lot 37  
DOB BIN Number 1028510  
Job No. 121328919  
Our File Number: 89628,003

Dear Commissioner Chandler:

This is to protest, and to demand reconsideration of, five August 5, 2015 New Building Work Permits issued by the Department of Buildings ("DOB"), with respect to the construction of a proposed new building ("New Building") at the above address (the "Property").

On May 4, 2015, DOB issued an approval of the New Building plans, initiating the 45-day challenge period provided by 1 RCNY § 101-15(b).

As confirmed by DOB's Challenge Period Status page, the 45-day period ended on June 18, 2015 (Exhibit A).

**The Timely Filed Challenge Forms**

On behalf of Landmark West and others, I filed, by facsimile transmission, a Zoning Challenge and Appeal Form (a "Challenge Form", Exhibit B), on June 18, 2015, as confirmed by the attached Fax Transmission Report (Exhibit C).

I also attempted to cause the Challenge Form delivered by hand, but DOB's office for receipt of such filings closed at or before 4:00 PM that day.

Alan Sugarman, Esq., as attorney for Nizan Kettaneh, hand-delivered a Challenge Form to DOB, which was stamped as received at 2:29 PM on June 18, 2015 (Exhibit D).

### **The Three Follow-Up Letters to DOB**

Having received no acknowledgment of the filings by Mr. Sugarman or me, and with no indication of the two Challenge Forms appearing on the DOB BIS site, I sent you my first letter, dated July 2, 2015, requesting confirmation of the timely filing (Exhibit E).

No response was received to my July 2, 2015 letter.

By letter dated July 20, 2015, I reasserted my request (erroneously dating the filing of the Challenge Form as May 4 (the DOB approval date) (Exhibit F).

No response was received to my July 20, 2015 letter.

By letter dated August 9, 2015, I repeated my request (again with the erroneous date) (Exhibit G).

No response was received to my August 9, 2015 letter.

Since the expiration of the 45-day challenge period, DOB's Challenge Results page has stated: "No Scanned Challenge Results Found For This Job." (Exhibit I).

### **DOB's Improper Issuance Of Five New Building Work Permits**

DOB ignored the two timely filed Challenge Forms, and the three follow-up letters, issuing five New Building Work Permits on August 5, 2015 (Exhibit H).

### **Conclusion**

Two Challenge Forms properly and timely were filed.

DOB failed to record either Challenge Form on its BIS Site.

DOB failed to confirm receipt of the Challenge Forms, both of which were accepted by DOB without protest.

DOB failed to acknowledge receipt of three follow-up letters.

DOB failed to comply with 1 RCNY § 101-15(b):

After the forty-five (46) days for public challenge have elapsed, the department shall provide the challenge(s) to the applicant and the borough commissioner shall begin a review of the challenge(s) received and issue decision(s). The borough commissioner may deny the challenge(s) and/or issue to the applicant a notice of intent to revoke the zoning approval and any other approval and/or permit that relies on the zoning approval, along with a list of objections to the application. The challenge(s) and decision(s) shall be posted on the department's website and made available upon request at the appropriate borough office.

DOB failed to comply with its rule, printed on the Challenge Form: "An official decision of the Challenge will be made available no earlier than 75 days after the Development Challenge process begins."

By failing to issue a decision on the two timely filed Challenge Forms, DOB denied the challengers' right to appeal to DOB's Technical Affairs Unit or Commissioner pursuant to 1 RCNY § 101-15(b)(1), and failed to provide required notice to Community Board 7.

DOB failed to comply with the letter of the Administrative Code, its own rules and regulations and stated purpose of the Development Challenge Process, to "give New Yorkers a stronger voice in the development of neighborhoods, greater transparency and clarify the process for the public and developers." [June 9, 2009 DOB Press Release]

### **Summation**

It is not possible to believe that the Challenge Forms merely "slipped through a crack".

Two separate Challenge Forms were filed in various manners.

Three follow-up letters were delivered to you and other DOB officials.

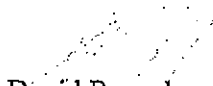
### **Request for Relief**

DOB forthwith must:

1. Rescind the five New Building Work Permits;
2. Process the Zoning Challenges and issue decisions thereon;
3. Investigate and report to all undersigned agencies and persons, and to those who filed the Challenge Forms, how these errors occurred and the steps DOB will take to assure that they will not be repeated; and

4. Provide a written acknowledgment of this submission.

Respectfully submitted,

  
David Rosenberg

DR/tp  
Encls.

Copies by Federal Express to:

Hon. Bill de Blasio  
Mayor of the City of New York

Hon. Letitia James  
Public Advocate of the City of New York

Hon. Gale A. Brewer  
Manhattan Borough President

Thomas Fariello, R.A.  
DOB First Deputy Commissioner

Martin Rebholz, R.A.  
DOB Manhattan Borough Commissioner

Philip A. Monaco, Esq.  
DOB Chief of Staff

Alexandra Fisher, Esq.  
DOB Deputy Commissioner of  
Legal & Regulatory Affairs

Mona Sehgal, Esq.  
DOB General Counsel

DOB Customer Service

Community Board 7

Hon. Mark G. Peters, Commissioner  
City of New York  
Department of Investigation

Hon. Gregory Cho  
Inspector General for the City of New York  
Department of Buildings



Landmark West!

Alan Sugarman, Esq.

# EXHIBIT J

MARCUS ROSENBERG & DIAMOND LLP

488 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

Telephone: (212) 755-7500  
Telefax: (212) 755-8713

October 28, 2015

Ms. Angela White  
Records Access Officer  
City of New York Department of Buildings  
280 Broadway, 7th Floor  
New York, New York 10007

Re: 8-10 West 70th Street (the "Property")  
New York, New York 10023  
Block 1122; Lot 37  
D.O.B. Job No. 121328919  
Our File Number: 89628.003

Dear Ms. White:

On or about June 10, 2015, I timely submitted, on behalf of Landmark West! and neighbors of the Property, a Zoning Development Challenge and, on July 2, 2015, July 20, 2015 and August 4, 2015, sent letters inquiring why the Challenge was not shown on the DOB's BIS site or why a similar Challenge, filed by Alan Sugarman, on behalf of himself and Nizam Kettaneh, Jay Greer and other interested parties, filed at about the same time, did not appear on the DOB BIS site.

To date, more than four months later, no response has been received from DOB to the Challenge I filed or any of my subsequent letters.

In recently reviewing the DOB BIS site, I noted that Mr. Sugarman's Challenge finally had been scanned to the site as of October 14, 2015, but the Challenge that I filed still did not appear.

The DOB BIS site also states, with respect to applications filed by the owner and listed as approved on May 4, 2013, that each now is subject to DOB's audit procedures and that Notices to Revoke were issued on October 11, 2015.

Pursuant to DOB's rules and regulations, a response to the Notices to Revoke was due no later than October 21, 2015, but the DOB BIS site shows no evidence of such a response.

That DOB is burdened with an enormous number of applications for new buildings and alterations, enforcing the Building Code, and complying with its other statutory obligations, does not justify DOB's failure to comply with the Zoning/Development Challenge program.

More than six years ago, then DOB Commissioner Robert D. LiMandri, in announcing the new challenge procedures, stated:

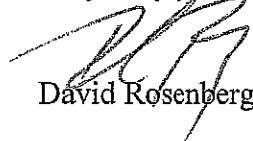
"Until now, knowledge of development approvals has been limited to a small group of insiders with expert knowledge. This puts the public at a disadvantage . . . . These reforms increase transparency and raise accountability across the board."

Notwithstanding the millions of dollars spent on new computers, there is no transparency for the public.

Apparently, DOB has returned to its stonewalling practices, making access to information impossible other than to "a small group of insiders" and those willing to bribe DOB employees. [See the February 10, 2015 press release of District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr. announcing the arrest of eleven DOB employees for soliciting and accepting bribes.]

I hereby request immediate access to every document filed with DOB and all communications with respect to this matter.

Very truly yours,



David Rosenberg

DR/gk

cc: Hon. Rick D. Chandler, P.E.  
DOB Commissioner

Hon. Bill de Blasio  
Mayor of the City of New York

Hon. Letitia James  
Public Advocate of the City of New York

Hon. Gale A. Brewer  
Manhattan Borough President

Hon. Cyrus R. Vance, Jr.  
New York County District Attorney

Thomas Fariello, R.A.  
DOB First Deputy Commissioner

Martin Rebholz, R.A.  
DOB Manhattan Borough Commissioner

Philip A. Monaco, Esq.  
DOB Chief of Staff

Alexandra Fisher, Esq.  
DOB Deputy Commissioner of  
Legal & Regulatory Affairs

Mona Sehgal, Esq.  
DOB General Counsel

DOB Customer Service  
*publicchallenge@buildings.nyc.gov*

Community Board 7

Hon. Mark G. Peters, Commissioner  
City of New York Department of Investigation

Hon. Gregory Cho  
Inspector General for the City of New York  
Department of Buildings

Landmark West!

Alan Sugarman, Esq.

# EXHIBIT K

---



NYC Development Hub  
 Department of Buildings  
 80 Centre Street  
 Third Floor  
 New York, New York 10013  
 nycdevelopmenthub@buildings.nyc.gov

### Notice of Comments

**Owner:** Barbara Reiss

**Date:** October 09, 2015

**Job Application #:** 121328919

**Application type A1 – New Building**

**Premises Address:** 8 West 70 Street, MN

**Zoning District:** R8B, R10A

**Block:** 1122 **Lots:** 37 Doc(s):

**Applicant:** Samuel G. White

Platt Byard Dovell White

20 West 22 Street, NY, NY 10010

**Plan Examiner at NYC Development Hub:** Scott D. Pavan, RA – Deputy Borough Commissioner

Examiner's Signature:

No.	Section of ZR and/or MDL	Comments	Date Resolved
1.	74-07-BZ	The proposed interior floor layouts are substantially changed from those approved under BSA approved plans calendar no. 74-07-BZ. Provide updated modified BSA approved plans.	
2.	74-07-BZ	The proposed caretaker apartment location is substantially changed from those approved under BSA approved plans calendar no. 74-07-BZ. Provide updated modified BSA approved plans.	
3.			

# EXHIBIT L



**PBDW ARCHITECTS**

November 12, 2015

Mr. Scott D. Pavan R.A.  
Deputy Borough Commissioner, Development Hub  
New York City Department of Buildings  
80 Centre Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York NY 10013

Re: BIS Job #121328919  
Address: 8 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan  
Block 1122, Lot 37

Dear Commissioner Pavan;

We are the architects for Congregation Shearith Israel, applicant for the above referenced project. We are in receipt of your comments dated October 9, 2015 in which you list several objections, specifically with reference to differences between the approved BSA drawings and the approved DOB drawings for the project.

We are working to answer each of your objections in a way that is acceptable to the Department of Buildings, to the Board of Standards & Appeals, and to our client. The process of resolving questions of this nature with two agencies and an institutional client is not quick, and it will take us a bit of time to work it out to the satisfaction of all parties.

We respectfully request that the Department of Buildings allow us a reasonable amount of time to develop a resolution. We further request that DOB not act to rescind the permit until we have had a chance to complete that process.

Please feel free to call me at 646-343-0678 or email me at [swhite@pbdw.com](mailto:swhite@pbdw.com) with any questions about this request.



# EXHIBIT M

**Angela White (Buildings)**

---

**From:** Brooke Schafran <brooke@capalino.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2015 5:35 PM  
**To:** Scott Pavan (Buildings); Martin Rebholz (Buildings)  
**Cc:** Sabinah Nimrod (Buildings); Steven Figueiredo; Fred Kreizman  
**Subject:** 8 West 70th St. (121328919) Request for Hold on Revocation  
**Attachments:** 8 West 70th Audit Response Letter.pdf

Good Evening Commissioners,

Per our conversation yesterday I would ask that you, Commissioner Pavan, please confirm that in conjunction with the attached signed and sealed letter from the architect the Department of Buildings will hold off revocation proceedings for job # 121328919 and allow for the existing permits to remain active while the architect properly addresses the audit objections.

Thank you again on behalf of Congregation Shearith Israel.

Please do confirm and have a great night,

Brooke Schafran  
Executive Vice President  
Capalino+Company  
T: 212-616-5828  
C: 917-428-8314  
[brooke@capalino.com](mailto:brooke@capalino.com)  
[www.capalino.com](http://www.capalino.com)

# EXHIBIT N



Rick D. Chandler, P.E.  
Commissioner

December 10, 2015

Martin Rebholz, R.A.  
Borough Commissioner

BARBARA REISS (Owner)  
8 WEST 70TH STREET  
NEW YORK NY 10023

280 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007

SAMUEL WHITE (Applicant)  
PLATT BYARD DOVELL WHITE LLP  
20 WEST 22ND STREET, NEW YORK NY 10010

+1 212 393 2615 tel  
+1 646 500 8170 fax

**RE: INTENT TO REVOKE APPROVAL(S) AND PERMIT(S)**  
8 WEST 70TH STREET  
Block: 01122 Lot: 00037  
Application #: 121328919

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Department of Buildings (the "Department") intends to revoke the approval and permit issued in connection with the application referenced above, pursuant to Sections 28-104.2.10 and 28-105.10.1 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York ("AC"), within fifteen calendar days of the posting of this letter by mail unless sufficient information is presented to the Department to demonstrate that the approval and permit should not be revoked.

Pursuant to AC §§ 28-104.2.10 and 28-105.10.1, the Department may revoke approval of construction documents for failure to comply with the provisions of the AC, other applicable laws or rules, or whenever a false statement or misrepresentation of material fact in the submittal documents upon the basis of which the approval was issued, or whenever any approval or permit has been issued in error.

The Department intends to revoke the approval and permit for the reasons set forth on the attached Objection Sheet, dated October 06, 2015.

In order to prevent revocation of the approval and permit upon the expiration of the fifteen day notice period, you must fax the appropriate borough office immediately to schedule an appointment to present information to the Department demonstrating that the permit should not be revoked. Your response may be deemed unresponsive if the architect or engineer of record fails to attend the appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "MR", written over a horizontal line.

Martin Rebholz, R.A.  
Borough Commissioner

MR/DM

Cc: Martin Rebholz, Borough Commissioner  
Borough Commissioner's Office  
Revocation File

Calvin Warner, Chief Construction Inspector  
Application Folder  
Premises file

# EXHIBIT 0

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR BUILDINGS NEWS](#)NYC Department of Buildings  
Application DetailsPremises: 8 WEST 70 STREET MANHATTAN  
BIN: 1028510 Block: 1122 Lot: 37JUMP TO: Doc 4 Go

Job No: 121328919

Document: 04 OF 4

Job Type: NB - NEW BUILDING

<a href="#">Document Overview</a>	<a href="#">Items Required</a>	<a href="#">Virtual Job Folder</a>	<a href="#">All Permits</a>	<a href="#">Schedule A</a>	<a href="#">Schedule B</a>
<a href="#">Fees Paid</a>	<a href="#">Forms Received</a>		<a href="#">All Comments</a>	<a href="#">C/O Summary</a>	<a href="#">Plumbing Inspections</a>
<a href="#">Crane Information</a>	<a href="#">Plan Examination</a>			<a href="#">C/O Preview</a>	
<a href="#">After Hours Variance Permits</a>					

[Inspection Ready](#)

<a href="#">Zoning Documents</a>	<a href="#">Challenge Period Status</a>	<a href="#">Challenge Results</a>
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AUDIT: NOTICE TO REVOKE 10/11/2015

Last Action: PERMIT ISSUED - ENTIRE JOB/WORK 08/05/2015 (R)

Application approved on: 05/04/2015

Pre-Filed: 02/10/2015 Building Type: Other Estimated Total Cost: \$0.00  
Date Filed: 02/10/2015 Electronically Filed: Yes  
Fee Structure: EXEMPT

Hub Job <sup>+</sup>: Yes[Job Description](#) [Comments](#)

## 1 Location Information (Filed At)

House No(s): 8 Street Name: WEST 70TH STREET  
Borough: Manhattan Block: 1122 Lot: 37 BIN: 1028510 CB No: 107  
Work on Floor(s): OSP Apt/Condo No(s): Zip Code: 10023

## 2 Applicant of Record Information

Name: WALTER J PAPP JR.  
Business Name: RA CONSULTANTS LLC Business Phone: 201-374-1794  
Business Address: 47 WILKENS DRIVE DUMONT NJ 07628 Business Fax:  
E-Mail: WALTER@RACLCC.COM Mobile Telephone:  
License Number: 084812

Applicant Type: ☒ P.E. ☐ R.A. ☐ Sign Hanger ☐ R.L.A. ☐ Other

## Directive 14 Applicant

Not Applicable

## Previous Applicant of Record

Not Applicable

## 3 Filing Representative

Name: HELEN A GOLDBER  
Business Name: DESIGN 2147, LTD. Business Phone: 718-383-9340  
Business Address: 52 DIAMOND STREET BROOKLYN NY 11222 Business Fax:  
E-Mail: HGOLDBER@DESIGN2147.COM Mobile Telephone:  
Registration Number: 001107

## 4 Filing Status

[Click Here to View](#)

## 5 Job Types

☐ Alteration Type 1 or Alteration Type 1 required to meet New Building requirements (28-101.4.5)

☐ Alteration Type 1, OT "No Work"

☒ New Building

☐ Alteration Type 2

☐ Full Demolition

☐ Alteration Type 3

☐ Subdivision: Improved

☐ Sign

☐ Subdivision: Condo

Directive 14 acceptance requested? ☐ Yes ☒ No

#### 6 Work Types

☐ BL - Boiler

☐ FA - Fire Alarm

☐ FB - Fuel Burning

☐ FS - Fuel Storage

☐ FP - Fire Suppression

☐ MH - Mechanical

☐ PL - Plumbing

☐ SD - Standpipe

☐ SP - Sprinkler

☐ EQ - Construction Equipment

☐ CC - Curb Cut

☒ OT - STRUCTURAL

#### 7 Plans/Construction Documents Submitted

Plans Page Count: See Document 01 for totals

#### 8 Additional Information

Not Applicable

#### 9 Additional Considerations, Limitations or Restrictions

See 01 Document for this Information

#### 10 NYCECC Compliance *New York City Energy Conservation Code* (Applicant Statement)

Not Provided

#### 11 Job Description

FILING HERewith SUPPORT OF EXCAVATION AS PER PLANS IN CONJUNCTION WITH NEW BUILDING.

Related BIS Job Numbers:

Primary application Job Number:

#### 12 Zoning Characteristics

See 01 Document for this Information

#### 13 Building Characteristics

See 01 Document for this Information

#### 14 Fill

See 01 Document for this Information

#### 15 Construction Equipment

Not Applicable

#### 16 Curb Cut Description

Not Applicable

#### 17 Tax Lot Characteristics

See 01 Document for this Information

#### 18 Fire Protection Equipment

See 01 Document for this Information

#### 19 Open Spaces

Not Provided

#### 20 Site Characteristics

See 01 Document for this Information

#### 21 Demolition Details

Not Applicable

#### 22 Asbestos Abatement Compliance

Not Applicable

#### 23 Signs

Not Applicable

#### 24 Comments

#### 25 Applicant's Statements and Signatures ( See paper form or check **Forms Received** )

See 01 Document for this Information

#### 26 Owner's Information

Name: BARBARA REISS



**Relationship to Owner:** EXEC. DIRECTOR

**Business Name:** CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

**Business Address:** 8 WEST 70TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10023

**E-Mail:** BREISS@SHEARITHISRAEL.COM

**Non Profit:** ☒ Yes ☐ No

**Business Phone:** 212-873-0300

**Business Fax:**

**Owner Type:** PARTNERSHIP

**Metes and Bounds**

To view metes and bounds, see the Plot Diagram (form PD-1). A scanned image may be available [here](#).

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† [the-hub](#)

If you have any questions please review these [Frequently Asked Questions](#), the [Glossary](#), or call the 311 Citizen Service Center by dialing 311 or (212) NEW YORK outside of New York City.

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## NYC Department of Buildings

## Application Details

JUMP TO:  Premises: 8 WEST 70 STREET MANHATTAN  
BIN: 1028510 Block: 1122 Lot: 37

Job No: 121328919

Document: 03 OF 4

Job Type: NB - NEW BUILDING

<a href="#">Document Overview</a>	<a href="#">Items Required</a>	<a href="#">Virtual Job Folder</a>	<a href="#">All Permits</a>	<a href="#">Schedule A</a>	<a href="#">Schedule B</a>
<a href="#">Fees Paid</a>	<a href="#">Forms Received</a>		<a href="#">All Comments</a>	<a href="#">C/O Summary</a>	<a href="#">Plumbing Inspections</a>
<a href="#">Crane Information</a>	<a href="#">Plan Examination</a>			<a href="#">C/O Preview</a>	
<a href="#">After Hours Variance Permits</a>					
<a href="#">Inspection Ready</a>					
<a href="#">Zoning Documents</a>	<a href="#">Challenge Period Status</a>	<a href="#">Challenge Results</a>			

AUDIT: NOTICE TO REVOKE 10/11/2015

Last Action: PERMIT ISSUED - ENTIRE JOB/WORK 08/05/2015 (R)

Application approved on: 05/04/2015

Pre-Filed: 04/03/2014 Building Type: Other Estimated Total Cost: \$0.00  
Date Filed: 04/03/2014 Electronically Filed: Yes  
Fee Structure: EXEMPT

Hub Job #: Yes

[Job Description](#) [Comments](#)

## 1 Location Information (Filed At)

House No(s): 8 Street Name: WEST 70TH STREET  
Borough: Manhattan Block: 1122 Lot: 37 BIN: 1028510 CB No: 107  
Work on Floor(s): SUB,CEL,ROF 001 thru 009 Apt/Condo No(s): Zip Code: 10023

## 2 Applicant of Record Information

Name: CHRIS ANASTOS  
Business Name: ANASTOS ENGINEERING ASSOC. Business Phone: 212-714-0993  
Business Address: 240 WEST 35TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001 Business Fax: 212-714-0997  
E-Mail: CANASTOS@ANASTOSEN.COM Mobile Telephone:  
License Number: 052369Applicant Type: ☒ P.E. ☐ R.A. ☐ Sign Hanger ☐ R.L.A. ☐ Other

Directive 14 Applicant

Not Applicable

Previous Applicant of Record

Not Applicable

## 3 Filing Representative

Name: HELEN A GOLDBER  
Business Name: DESIGN 2147, LTD. Business Phone: 718-383-9340  
Business Address: 52 DIAMOND STREET BROOKLYN NY 11222 Business Fax:  
E-Mail: HGOLDBER@DESIGN2147.COM Mobile Telephone:  
Registration Number: 001107

## 4 Filing Status

[Click Here to View](#)

## 5 Job Types

- ☐ Alteration Type 1 or Alteration Type 1 required to meet New Building requirements (28-101.4.5)  
☐ Alteration Type 1, OT "No Work" ☒ New Building  
☐ Alteration Type 2 ☐ Full Demolition  
☐ Alteration Type 3 ☐ Subdivision: Improved  
☐ Sign ☐ Subdivision: Condo  
Directive 14 acceptance requested? ☐ Yes ☒ No

**6 Work Types**

- ☐ BL - Boiler ☐ FA - Fire Alarm ☐ FB - Fuel Burning ☐ FS - Fuel Storage  
☐ FP - Fire Suppression ☐ MH - Mechanical ☐ PL - Plumbing ☐ SD - Standpipe  
☐ SP - Sprinkler ☐ EQ - Construction Equipment ☐ CC - Curb Cut  
☒ OT - STRUCTURAL

**7 Plans/Construction Documents Submitted**

Plans Page Count: See Document 01 for totals

**8 Additional Information**

Not Applicable

**9 Additional Considerations, Limitations or Restrictions**

See 01 Document for this Information

**10 NYCECC Compliance** *New York City Energy Conservation Code* (Applicant Statement)

Not Provided

**11 Job Description**

FILING HERewith STRUCTURAL WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH NEW BUILDING.

**Related BIS Job Numbers:**

**Primary application Job Number:**

**12 Zoning Characteristics**

See 01 Document for this Information

**13 Building Characteristics**

See 01 Document for this Information

**14 Fill**

See 01 Document for this Information

**15 Construction Equipment**

Not Applicable

**16 Curb Cut Description**

Not Applicable

**17 Tax Lot Characteristics**

See 01 Document for this Information

**18 Fire Protection Equipment**

See 01 Document for this Information

**19 Open Spaces**

Not Provided

**20 Site Characteristics**

See 01 Document for this Information

**21 Demolition Details**

Not Applicable

**22 Asbestos Abatement Compliance**

Not Applicable

**23 Signs**

Not Applicable

**24 Comments****25 Applicant's Statements and Signatures** ( See paper form or check **Forms Received** )

See 01 Document for this Information

**26 Owner's Information**

Name: BARBARA REISS

**Relationship to Owner:** EXEC. DIRECTOR

**Business Name:** CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

**Business Address:** 8 WEST 70TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10023

**E-Mail:** BREISS@SHEARITHISRAEL.COM

**Non Profit:** ☒ Yes ☐ No

**Business Phone:** 212-873-0300

**Business Fax:**

**Owner Type:** INDIVIDUAL

**Metes and Bounds**

To view metes and bounds, see the Plot Diagram (form PD-1). A scanned image may be available [here](#).

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† [the-hub](#)

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**NYC Department of Buildings**  
**Application Details**

JUMP TO:  

Premises: 8 WEST 70 STREET MANHATTAN  
BIN: 1028510 Block: 1122 Lot: 37

Job No: 121328919

Document: 02 OF 4

Job Type: NB - NEW BUILDING

<a href="#">Document Overview</a>	<a href="#">Items Required</a>	<a href="#">Virtual Job Folder</a>	<a href="#">All Permits</a>	<a href="#">Schedule A</a>	<a href="#">Schedule B</a>
<a href="#">Fees Paid</a>	<a href="#">Forms Received</a>		<a href="#">All Comments</a>	<a href="#">C/O Summary</a>	<a href="#">Plumbing Inspections</a>
<a href="#">Crane Information</a>	<a href="#">Plan Examination</a>			<a href="#">C/O Preview</a>	
<a href="#">After Hours Variance Permits</a>					
<a href="#">Inspection Ready</a>					
<a href="#">Zoning Documents</a>	<a href="#">Challenge Period Status</a>	<a href="#">Challenge Results</a>			

AUDIT: NOTICE TO REVOKE 10/11/2015

**Last Action: PERMIT ISSUED - PARTIAL JOB 08/05/2015 (Q)****Application approved on: 05/04/2015**

Pre-Filed: 04/03/2014 Building Type: Other  
Date Filed: 04/03/2014  
Fee Structure: EXEMPT

Estimated Total Cost: \$0.00  
Electronically Filed: Yes

Hub Job <sup>†</sup>: Yes
[Job Description](#) [Comments](#)
**1 Location Information (Filed At)**

House No(s): 8 Street Name: WEST 70TH STREET  
Borough: Manhattan Block: 1122 Lot: 37 BIN: 1028510 CB No: 107  
Work on Floor(s): SC, CEL,ROF 001 thru 009 Apt/Condo No(s): Zip Code: 10023

**2 Applicant of Record Information**

Name: JACOB LAWRENCE  
Business Name: AKF ENGINEERS, LLP Business Phone: 212-626-0178  
Business Address: 330 WEST 42ND STREET 14TH FLOOR NEW YORK NY 10036 Business Fax:  
E-Mail: JLAURENCE@AKFGROUP.COM Mobile Telephone:  
License Number: 079475

Applicant Type: ☒ P.E. ☐ R.A. ☐ Sign Hanger ☐ R.L.A. ☐ Other**Directive 14 Applicant**

Not Applicable

**Previous Applicant of Record**

Not Applicable

**3 Filing Representative**

Name: HELEN A GOLDBERGER Business Phone: 718-383-9340  
Business Name: DESIGN 2147, LTD. Business Fax:  
Business Address: 52 DIAMOND STREET BROOKLYN NY 11222 Mobile Telephone:  
E-Mail: HGOLDBER@DESIGN2147.COM Registration Number: 001107

**4 Filing Status**[Click Here to View](#)

**5 Job Types**

- ☐ Alteration Type 1 or Alteration Type 1 required to meet New Building requirements (28-101.4.5)  
☐ Alteration Type 1, OT "No Work" ☒ New Building  
☐ Alteration Type 2 ☐ Full Demolition  
☐ Alteration Type 3 ☐ Subdivision: Improved  
☐ Sign ☐ Subdivision: Condo  
 Directive 14 acceptance requested? ☐ Yes ☒ No

**6 Work Types**

- ☐ BL - Boiler ☐ FA - Fire Alarm ☐ FB - Fuel Burning ☐ FS - Fuel Storage  
☐ FP - Fire Suppression ☒ MH - Mechanical ☒ PL - Plumbing ☐ SD - Standpipe  
☐ SP - Sprinkler ☐ EQ - Construction Equipment ☐ CC - Curb Cut  
☐ OT - Other

**7 Plans/Construction Documents Submitted**

Plans Page Count: See Document 01 for totals

**8 Additional Information**

Not Applicable

**9 Additional Considerations, Limitations or Restrictions**

See 01 Document for this Information

**10 NYCECC Compliance** *New York City Energy Conservation Code (Applicant Statement)*

Not Provided

**11 Job Description**

FILING HEREWITH MECHANICAL AND PLUMBING WORK AS PER PLANS FILED IN CONJUNCTION WITH NEW BUILDING.

**Related BIS Job Numbers:**

**Primary application Job Number:**

**12 Zoning Characteristics**

See 01 Document for this Information

**13 Building Characteristics**

See 01 Document for this Information

**14 Fill**

See 01 Document for this Information

**15 Construction Equipment**

Not Applicable

**16 Curb Cut Description**

Not Applicable

**17 Tax Lot Characteristics**

See 01 Document for this Information

**18 Fire Protection Equipment**

See 01 Document for this Information

**19 Open Spaces**

Not Provided

**20 Site Characteristics**

See 01 Document for this Information

**21 Demolition Details**

Not Applicable

**22 Asbestos Abatement Compliance**

Not Applicable

**23 Signs**

Not Applicable

**24 Comments****25 Applicant's Statements and Signatures** ( See paper form or check **Forms Received** )

See 01 Document for this Information

26 Owner's Information

**Name:** BARBARA REISS  
**Relationship to Owner:** EXEC. DIRECTOR

**Business Name:** CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL  
**Business Address:** 8 WEST 70TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10023  
**E-Mail:** BREISS@SHEARITHISRAEL.COM

**Business Phone:** 212-873-0300

**Business Fax:**

**Owner Type:** INDIVIDUAL

**Non Profit:** ☒ Yes ☐ No

**Metes and Bounds**

To view metes and bounds, see the Plot Diagram (form PD-1). A scanned image may be available [here](#).

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\* [the-hub](#)

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[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR BUILDINGS NEWS](#)NYC Department of Buildings  
Application DetailsJUMP TO: Doc 1 ▾ GoPremises: 8 WEST 70 STREET MANHATTAN  
BIN: 1028510 Block: 1122 Lot: 37

Job No: 121328919

Document: 01 OF 4

Job Type: NB - NEW BUILDING

<a href="#">Document Overview</a>	<a href="#">Items Required</a>	<a href="#">Virtual Job Folder</a>	<a href="#">All Permits</a>	<a href="#">Schedule A</a>	<a href="#">Schedule B</a>
<a href="#">Fees Paid</a>	<a href="#">Forms Received</a>		<a href="#">All Comments</a>	<a href="#">C/O Summary</a>	<a href="#">Plumbing Inspections</a>
<a href="#">Crane Information</a>	<a href="#">Plan Examination</a>			<a href="#">C/O Preview</a>	
<a href="#">After Hours Variance Permits</a>					

[Inspection Ready](#)[Zoning Documents](#)[Challenge Period Status](#)[Challenge Results](#)

AUDIT: NOTICE TO REVOKE 10/11/2015

Last Action: PERMIT ISSUED - PARTIAL JOB 09/25/2015 (Q)

Application approved on: 05/04/2015

Pre-Filed: 05/24/2013 Building Type: Other

Estimated Total Cost: \$0.00

Date Filed: 05/24/2013

Electronically Filed: Yes

Fee Structure: EXEMPT

Review is requested under Building Code: 2008

Hub Job <sup>+</sup>: Yes[Job Description](#) [Comments](#)

## 1 Location Information (Filed At)

House No(s): 8

Street Name: WEST 70TH STREET

Borough: Manhattan

Block: 1122

Lot: 37

BIN: 1028510

CB No: 107

Work on Floor(s): SUB,CEL,ROF 001 thru 009

Apt/Condo No(s):

Zip Code: 10023

## 2 Applicant of Record Information

Name: SAMUEL G WHITE

Business Name: PLATT BYARD DOVELL WHITE LLP

Business Address: 20 WEST 22ND STREET NEW YORK NY 10010

E-Mail: SWHITE@PBDW.COM

Business Phone: 212-691-2440

Business Fax:

Mobile Telephone:

License Number: 014775

Applicant Type: ☐ P.E. ☒ R.A. ☐ Sign Hanger ☐ R.L.A. ☐ Other

Directive 14 Applicant

Not Applicable

Previous Applicant of Record

Not Applicable

## 3 Filing Representative

Name: HELEN A GOLDUBER

Business Name: DESIGN 2147, LTD.

Business Address: 52 DIAMOND STREET BROOKLYN NY 11222

E-Mail: HGOLDUBER@DESIGN2147.COM

Business Phone: 718-383-9340

Business Fax:

Mobile Telephone:

Registration Number: G46540

## 4 Filing Status

[Click Here to View](#)

## 5 Job Types



- ☐ Alteration Type 1 or Alteration Type 1 required to meet New Building requirements (28-101.4.5)
- ☐ Alteration Type 1, OT "No Work" ☒ New Building
- ☐ Alteration Type 2 ☐ Full Demolition
- ☐ Alteration Type 3 ☐ Subdivision: Improved
- ☐ Sign ☐ Subdivision: Condo
- Directive 14 acceptance requested? ☐ Yes ☒ No

## 6 Work Types

- ☐ BL - Boiler ☐ FA - Fire Alarm ☐ FB - Fuel Burning ☐ FS - Fuel Storage
- ☐ FP - Fire Suppression ☐ MH - Mechanical ☐ PL - Plumbing ☐ SD - Standpipe
- ☐ SP - Sprinkler ☒ EQ - Construction Equipment ☐ CC - Curb Cut
- ☒ OT - GEN. CONSTR.

## 7 Plans/Construction Documents Submitted

Plans Page Count: 205

Foundation approved on: 05/04/2015

## 8 Additional Information

Enlargement proposed?

- ☒ No ☐ Yes ☐ Horizontal ☐ Vertical

Total Construction Floor Area: 55,027 sq.ft.

## 9 Additional Considerations, Limitations or Restrictions

Yes No

- ☐ ☐ Alt. required to meet New Building req's (28-101.4.5)

Yes No

- ☐ ☐ Alteration is a major change to exits
- ☐ ☐ Change in number of dwelling units
- ☐ ☐ Change in Occupancy / Use
- ☐ ☐ Change is inconsistent with current certificate of occupancy
- ☐ ☐ Change in number of stories

- ☐ ☐ Facade Alteration
- ☐ ☒ Adult Establishment
- ☐ ☒ Compensated Development (Inclusionary Housing)
- ☐ ☒ Low Income Housing (Inclusionary Housing)
- ☐ ☒ Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Multiple Dwelling
- ☐ ☒ Filing Includes Lot Merger / Reapportionment

- ☐ ☒ Infill Zoning
- ☐ ☒ Loft Board
- ☐ ☒ Quality Housing
- ☐ ☒ Site Safety Job / Project
- ☐ ☒ Included in LMCCC

Work Includes:

- ☐ ☐ Prefab wood I-joists
- ☐ ☐ Structural cold-formed steel
- ☐ ☐ Open-web steel joists

- ☒ ☐ Landmark
- ☐ ☒ Environmental Restrictions (Little E or RD)
- ☐ ☒ Unmapped/CCO Street
- ☐ ☒ Legalization
- ☐ ☒ Other, Specify:
- ☐ ☒ Filed to Comply with Local Law
- ☒ ☐ Restrictive Declaration / Easement
- CRFN No.: 2014000392039 2014000374596 2015000080356
- ☒ ☐ Zoning Exhibit Record (I,II,III,etc)
- CRFN No.: 2015000050523 2015000050524
- ☐ ☒ Filed to Address Violation(s)

Landmark Docket Number: LPC152

- ☒ ☐ Work Includes lighting fixture and/or controls, installation or replacement. [ECC §404 and §505]
- ☐ ☐ Work includes modular construction under New York State jurisdiction
- ☐ ☐ Work includes modular construction under New York City jurisdiction
- ☐ ☒ Structural peer review required per BC §1627 Peer Reviewer License No.(P.E.):
- ☐ ☐ Work includes permanent removal of standpipe, sprinkler or fire suppression related systems
- ☐ ☐ Work includes partial demolition as defined in AC §28-101.5, or the raising/moving of a building
- ☐ ☐ Structural Stability affected by proposed work

BSA Calendar No.(s): 74-07-BZ

CPC Calendar No.(s):

## 10 NYCECC Compliance New York City Energy Conservation Code (Applicant Statement)

- ☒ To the best of my knowledge, belief and professional judgment, this application is in compliance with the NYCECC.
- ☐ Energy analysis is on another job number:
- Yes No

- ☐ ☒ This application is, or is part of, a project that utilizes trade-offs among different major systems  
☐ ☒ This application utilizes trade-offs within a single major system

**11 Job Description**

FILING HERewith NEW BUILDING AS PER PLANS.

Related BIS Job Numbers:

Primary application Job Number:

**12 Zoning Characteristics**

District(s): R8B - GENERAL RESIDENCE DISTRICT R10A - GENERAL RESIDENCE DISTRICT

Overlay(s):

Special District(s):

Map No.: 8c

Street legal width (ft.): 60

Street status: ☒ Public ☐ Private

Zoning lot includes the following tax lots: 00036 00037

Proposed: Use	Zoning Area (sq.ft.)	District	FAR
COMMUNITY FACILITY	5,641	R10A	0.33
COMMUNITY FACILITY	14,372	R8B	0.83
RESIDENTIAL	4,686	R10A	0.27
RESIDENTIAL	16,865	R8B	0.98
<b>Proposed Totals:</b>	<b>41,565</b>	--	<b>2.41</b>
<b>Existing Total:</b>		--	--

**Proposed Lot Details:** Lot Type: ☒ Corner ☐ Interior ☐ Through  
Lot Coverage (%): 80 Lot Area (sq.ft.): 17,286 Lot Width (ft.): 172  
**Proposed Yard Details:** ☐ No Yards Or  
Front Yard (ft.): 0 Rear Yard (ft.): 20 Rear Yard Equivalent (ft.): 0  
Side Yard 1 (ft.): 0 Side Yard 2 (ft.): 0  
**Proposed Other Details:** Perimeter Wall Height (ft.): 95  
Enclosed Parking? ☐ Yes ☒ No No. of parking spaces:

**13 Building Characteristics**

Primary structural system: ☐ Masonry ☒ Concrete (CIP) ☐ Concrete (Precast) ☐ Wood  
☐ Steel (Structural) ☐ Steel (Cold-Formed) ☐ Steel (Encased in Concrete)

**Proposed**  
Structural Occupancy Category: III - SUBSTANTIAL HAZARD TO HUMAN LIFE  
Seismic Design Category: CATEGORY B

Occupancy Classification: R-2 - RESIDENTIAL: APARTMENT HOUSES  
Construction Classification: I-B: 2 HOUR PROTECTED - NON-COMBUST  
Multiple Dwelling Classification: HAEA  
Building Height (ft.): 106  
Building Stories: 9  
Dwelling Units: 4  
Mixed use building? ☒ Yes ☐ No

2014/2008 Code Designations?

☒ Yes ☐ No☒ Yes ☐ No**14 Fill**

☐ Not Applicable ☐ Off-Site ☒ On-Site ☐ Under 300 cubic yards

**15 Construction Equipment**

☐ Chute ☐ Sidewalk Shed Construction Material: WOOD  
☒ Fence Size: linear ft. BSA/MEA Approval No.:  
☐ Supported Scaffold ☐ Other

**16 Curb Cut Description**

Not Applicable

**17 Tax Lot Characteristics**

Not Provided

**18 Fire Protection Equipment**

Existing		Proposed		Existing		Proposed	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

# EXHIBIT P

**MARCUS ROSENBERG & DIAMOND LLP**

488 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

Telephone: (212) 755-7500  
Telefax: (212) 755-8713

February 25, 2016

Rick D. Chandler, P.E.  
Commissioner  
New York City Department of Buildings  
280 Broadway, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10007  
[rhandler@buildings.nyc.gov](mailto:rhandler@buildings.nyc.gov)

Martin Rebholz, R.A.  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
New York City Department of Buildings  
280 Broadway, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10007  
[mrebholz@buildings.nyc.gov](mailto:mrebholz@buildings.nyc.gov)

Calvin Warner  
Chief Construction Inspector  
New York City Department of Buildings  
280 Broadway, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
New York, New York 10007  
[cwarner@buildings.nyc.gov](mailto:cwarner@buildings.nyc.gov)

Re: Congregation Shearith Israel  
8 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street  
Block 1122 Lot 37  
Job No. 12132919  
Our Matter Number: 89628.003

Gentlemen:

This firm represents Landmark West!, an award-winning non-profit community organization dedicated to preserving the unique buildings and character of the Upper West Side of Manhattan and, also, neighbors owning properties in the immediate vicinity of the Congregation

Shearith Israel ("CSI") proposed high-rise luxury condominium building (the "Project") on the property at 8 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street.

In opposition to the Project, Landmark West! appeared before the Landmarks Preservation Commission ("LPC"), Community Board 7 and the Board of Standards and Appeal ("BSA") and has made numerous submissions to each of the foregoing and to the Department of Buildings ("DOB"), including the submission of a Zoning Challenge.

Alan Sugarman, Esq., who represents a number of individual property owners in the immediate vicinity of the Project, has submitted a Zoning Challenge and other opposition to DOB and BSA on behalf of his clients.

DOB reviewed the foregoing submissions and material submitted on behalf of CSI. The DOB BIS site states that, on October 11, 2015, DOB issued Notices to Revoke Project permits (the "Permits") previously issued under Job No. 2132919.

Through Freedom of Information requests and other methods, the following documents, copies of which are sent herewith, were obtained:

(a) DOB's October 9, 2015 Notice of Comments, addressed to Samuel G. White, of Platt Byard Dovell White, CSI's architects (the "Project Architects"), noting:

The proposed interior floor layouts are substantially changed from those approved under BSA approved plans calendar no. 74-07-BZ. Provide updated modified BSA approved plans.

The proposed caretaker apartment location is substantially changed from those approved under BSA approved plans calendar no. 74-07-BZ. Provide updated modified BSA approved plans.

(b) November 12, 2015 letter from the Project Architects to Commissioner Scott D. Pavan requesting that "DOB not act to rescind the permit until we have had a chance to complete the process [of developing a resolution acceptable to DOB]"; and

(c) November 17, 2015 email from Brooke Schafran, copied to Steve Figueredo and Fred Kreizman (all Vice Presidents of Capalino & Company, the "CSI Lobbyists), stating:

Per our conversation yesterday I would ask that you, Commissioner Pavan, please confirm that in conjunction with the attached signed and sealed letter from the architect the Department of Buildings will hold off revocation proceedings for job# 121328919 and allow for the existing permits to remain active while the architect properly addresses the audit objections.

(d) December 10, 2015 letter from Commissioner Rebholz to CSI and CSI's Project Architects stating that DOB intends to revoke the previously issued permits within 15 days.

The above-described ex parte communications with DOB were not sent to this firm, Mr. Sugarman or our respective clients.

No explanation appears for the two month delay between DOB's original October 9, 2015 notices and the December 10, 2015 DOB letter.

We have not been provided with any documents or the results of any communications after the issuance of the December 10, 2015 letter from Commissioner Rebholz, issued more than two months ago.

Even if DOB's ex parte communications with the CSI Projects Architects could be justified, the secret communications with the CSI Lobbyists, a high-powered lobbying firm, creates

great concern for the openness of this process, especially since Steven Figueredo, Senior Vice President of the CSI Lobbyists, served as DOB Chief of Staff less than two years ago and Christopher Collins, Executive Vice President of the CSI Lobbyists, was a BSA Commissioner who voted on the variance granted to CSI by BSA.

Contrary to the express purposes of the Zoning Challenge procedure, we have been advised that the CSI Project Architects and CSI Lobbyists have been meeting with DOB personnel in an attempt to have CSI's materially changed plans approved without further review by LPC, BSA or DOB. This should not be permitted.

The Zoning Challenge procedure expressly was adopted to permit "informed public challenges of zoning approvals by DOB."

Pursuant to Articles 6 and 7 of the Public Officers Law, the parties filing the Zoning Challenges should have full and complete access to all relevant documents and should be permitted to attend and participate in all meetings and communications relating to the CSI Project.

Please immediately provide copies of all documents herein described and provide advance notice to me and Mr. Sugarman of all future meetings or communications with CSI or its representatives, with the right to participate therein.

Very truly yours,



David Rosenberg

DR/jel

# EXHIBIT Q





Rick D. Chandler, P.E.  
Commissioner

March 30, 2016

Joseph Bruno, R.A.  
Deputy Borough  
Commissioner

BARBARA REISS (Owner)  
8 WEST 70TH STREET  
NEW YORK NY 10023

280 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007

SAMUEL WHITE (Applicant)  
PLATT BYARD DOVELL WHITE LLP  
20 WEST 22ND STREET, NEW YORK NY 10010

+1 212 393 2615 tel  
+1 646 500 6170 fax  
x@buildings.nyc.gov

RE: INTENT TO REVOKE APPROVAL(S) AND PERMIT(S),  
ORDER(S) TO STOP WORK IMMEDIATELY  
8 WEST 70TH STREET  
Block: 01122 Lot: 00037 Application #: 121328919

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Department of Buildings (the "Department") intends to revoke the approval and permit issued in connection with the application referenced above, pursuant to Sections 28-104.2.10 and 28-105.10.1 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York ("AC"), within fifteen calendar days of the posting of this letter by mail unless sufficient information is presented to the Department to demonstrate that the approval and permit should not be revoked.

Pursuant to AC §§ 28-104.2.10 and 28-105.10.1, the Department may revoke approval of construction documents for failure to comply with the provisions of the AC, other applicable laws or rules, or whenever a false statement or misrepresentation of material fact in the submittal documents upon the basis of which the approval was issued, or whenever any approval or permit has been issued in error.

The Department intends to revoke the approval and permit for the reasons set forth on the attached Objection Sheet, dated October 09, 2015.

In addition, the conditions described in the attached Objection Sheet present an imminent peril to life or property at the premises. Therefore, you are hereby ordered to **STOP ALL WORK IMMEDIATELY AND MAKE THE SITE SAFE** pursuant to AC § 28-105.10.2.

In order to prevent revocation of the approval and permit upon the expiration of the fifteen day notice period, you must fax the appropriate borough office immediately to schedule an appointment to present information to the Department demonstrating that the permit should not be revoked. Your response may be deemed unresponsive if the architect or engineer of record fails to attend the appointment.

Sincerely,

Joseph Bruno, R.A.  
Deputy Borough Commissioner

JB/po

Cc: Martin Rebholz, Borough Commissioner  
Premises file

Calvin Warner, Chief Construction Inspector