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September 1, 2006

Meenakshi Srinivasan
Chair
NYC Board of Standards and Appeals
40 Rector Street
9th Floor
New York, NY 10006-1705
(212) 788-8769 (Fax)

Re: Freedom of Information Request
Shearith Israel Project at 8 West 70th Street, New York, New York

Dear Chair Srinivasan:

Reference is made to the mixed use tower that has been proposed by the Congregation Shearith Israel (the "applicant") at 8 West 70th Street, New York, New York. As you might note, I live across the street from the proposed project.

In a separate letter today, I filed a Freedom of Information request.

I now have another request to make of the BSA: in prior proceedings involving this applicant, the flow and distribution of information has been extremely inefficient and has in some way prevented the public from reviewing the information prior to meeting and hearings.

For example, at a Community Board committee meeting, the applicant presented a lengthy PowerPoint presentation, but, the applicant refused to make it available to the community (and indeed to the Community Board). At the last LPC meeting on March 14, 2006, the applicant filed new drawings, and opponents to the project did not obtain copies until a week after the meeting and after approval of the project.

What I am requesting is that the BSA require that the applicant provide its Draft Application and Application in electronic form such as Acrobat PDF format and PowerPoint. I note that the LPC has, after the fact, asked that this applicant provide material on a CD-ROM (see attached letter from the LPC.) I note that the CB-7 has posted applications with drawings etc. in Acrobat PDF format. Obviously, all of the information provided is generated electronically and plans and drawings may easily be exported to Acrobat PDF. Indeed, in the federal courts, all filings now must be made in Acrobat PDF form.

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In any event, it would be of no significant burden or cost to the applicant were the BSA to ask in this significant matter that this information be provided in digital format – indeed, this could even save money for the applicant if multiple copies of filings are not required.

This will make entire approval process more transparent, more efficient and more democratic, and will reduce suspicion on the part of the public. This is very much in accord with the policies being pushed by the Bloomberg administration.

It is inevitable that future regulations will require that this information be provided in electronic form – why not start now and start with this project?

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan D. Sugarman".

Alan D. Sugarman



THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
1 CENTRE STREET 9TH FLOOR NORTH NEW YORK, NY 10007
TEL: 212 669-7700 FAX: 212 669-7780



March 14, 2006

ISSUED TO:

Dr. Alan Singer
Congregation Shearith Israel
8 West 70th Street
New York, NY 10023

Re: **STATUS UPDATE LETTER**
LPC - 032628
SUL 06-6545
8 WEST 70TH STREET
CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE
INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK
Borough of Manhattan
Block/Lot: 1122 / 36

This letter is to inform you that at the Public Meeting of March 14, 2006, following the Public Hearing of November 26, 2002, and the Public Meetings of November 26, 2002, February 11, 2003, July 1, 2003, December 9, 2003, July 19, 2005, and January 17, 2006, the Landmarks Preservation Commission voted to approve a proposal to demolish the existing community house and construct a new 8-story-plus-penthouse building at the subject premises.

No work can begin until a Certificate of Appropriateness has been issued. Upon receipt, review and approval of a reduced set of the presentation materials, a CD-ROM of the presentation materials, and two signed and sealed sets of the Department of Buildings filing drawings showing the approved design, a Certificate of Appropriateness will be issued.

Please note that all drawings, including amendments which are to be filed at the Department of Buildings, must be approved by the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Thank you for your cooperation.

NOT ORIGINAL

COMPUTER-GENERATED COPY

Meisha Hunter

Please Note: THIS IS NOT A PERMIT

cc: C. Kane Levy; S. Friedman, Esq.; Platt Byard Dovell and White, Architects

