James G. Clynes Chairman

Latha Thompson District Manager



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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

May 19, 2016

Hon. Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission Municipal Building One Centre Street, 9th Floor New York, NY 10007

Re: 3 East 84th Street - Metropolitan Museum Historic District

Dear Chair Srinivasan:

At the Full Board meeting on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, the board adopted the following resolution regarding 3 East 84th Street – Metropolitan Museum Historic District – Mike Goldstein, owner, PH apartment. Application is to legalize a mural at the penthouse that was installed without permission from the Landmarks Preservation Commission

WHEREAS 3 East 84th Street is an Art Deco-style building designed by Raymond M. Hood & John M. Howells and constructed in 1928.

WHEREAS the applicant would like to legalize the installation of a rear terrace mural at the penthouse level. WHEREAS the applicant did not have the exact dimensions of the mural which presents as approximately 10' high by 10' wide.

WHEREAS the mural depicts a boy the height of the mural [and thus larger than life-size] holding an oversized pair of binoculars depicting the New York skyline among other elements that present an overall theme of a young person emigrating to New York in the early part of the twentieth century.

WHEREAS the mural is painted on limestone.

WHEREAS the mural is visible from the north side of 85th Street because directly across from 3 East 84th Street on 85th Street there is a service alley 9'11" wide. [To clarify, the service alley creates a cone of visibility from 85th Street to the rear elevation of 3 East 84th Street. Thus, the mural is visible from 85th Street.]

WHEREAS the mural is visible from the upper floors of every apartment behind 3 East 84th Street.

WHEREAS the applicant indicated that he did not know that a mural of this size within the historic district would require a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Landmarks Commission.

WHEREAS the architect for 3 East 84th Street, Raymond Hood, also helped to design Rockefeller Center and The Daily News Building.

WHEREAS 3 East 84th Street, a small side-street building at 9 stories high with the penthouse above, is considered to be one of the Art Deco landmarks of the city.

WHEREAS the concept for the mural -- which presents as contemporary -- is totally out of context with the extraordinarily lovely Art Deco detailing of the building.

WHEREAS the size of the mural -- which extends from the floor of the penthouse terrace to the roof of the penthouse terrace -- is totally inappropriate within the historic district.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this application is disapproved as presented.

This recommendation was approved by a vote of 32 in favor, 12 opposed, 1 abstention, and 0 not voting for cause.

Sincerely,

James & Clynes

Chairman

David Helpern and Jane Parshall
Co-Chairs, Landmarks Committee

cc:

Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 26th Senatorial District
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Daniel Garodnick, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District