James G. Clynes Chairman

Latha Thompson District Manager



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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

April 25, 2016

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

Re: 923 Fifth Avenue-(between 73rd and 74th Streets)-Upper East Side Historic District

Dear Chair Srinivasan:

At the Full Board meeting on Wednesday, April 20, 2016, the board adopted the following resolution regarding 923 Fifth Avenue-(between 73rd and 74th Streets)-Upper East Side Historic District-Steven Harris, architect- Application to install new windows and make changes to existing windows.

WHEREAS 923 Fifth Avenue is a 92 unit, 21-story apartment building designed by S. L. Bien and constructed in 1951.

WHEREAS 923 Fifth Avenue is listed as a non-contributing building in the designation report for the historic district.

WHEREAS the 19th floor reads as a penthouse and is at the building's second setback [12' from the front elevation].

WHEREAS the applicant proposes, at the 19th floor, to enlarge the windows/masonry openings on all 4 elevations both in width and height so that all the elevations will read as mostly glass with single plates of insulated glazing; the existing windows are one-over-one double hung windows. [See below. Note that only one or two examples of changes to the window openings on each elevation are given simply to show the extent to which the glazing is being significantly increased.]

WHEREAS at the west elevation which faces Central Park, there are now 6 windows and one door; all 6 windows and the door will be enlarged significantly with the largest opening 15'9' wide. [the height of most windows on this elevation will change from approximately 4'10" tall to 6'7" tall]

WHEREAS at the south elevation there are now 6 windows; the largest opening will now be 15' wide -{previously 9'8" high and 4'10" wide}; the height of 3 windows will increase to 7'.

WHEREAS at the east elevation – the rear of the building — there are now six windows; the largest opening will change from 11'8" high x 5" wide to 20' wide x 5'3" wide. Otherwise, on this elevation, there will be no changes to the existing windows.

WHEREAS at the north elevation there are now 9 windows and one door. 3 of the existing windows and the door will be enlarged; one window will be closed with new brick to match the existing brick; the largest opening will now be 12'8" wide x 5'2" high (originally 3'4" wide x 4'10" high).

WHEREAS the applicant also proposes to replace the existing metal handrails with glass frameless handrails and to add a painted metal, slatted visor/eyebrow above the windows along the entire west elevation that will wrap around to both the north and south elevations and extend about half way down both the north and south elevations.

WHEREAS the new visor/eyebrow will project out 4' from the west and south elevations and will be narrower [2'1"] on the north elevation.

WHEREAS the window intervention is within the context of a modern building.

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

This recommendation was approved by a vote of 40 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

Sincerely,

Chairman

David Helpern and Jane Parshall

Co-Chairs, Landmarks Committee

Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York cc:

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