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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

July 25, 2022

Honorable Sarah Carroll, Chair
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
One Center Street, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10007

RE: 53 East 79th Street – The New York Society Library (Individual Landmark) – *Larson Architecture Works PLLC* - An Italian Renaissance style townhouse designed by Trowbridge & Livingston, constructed in 1916-17 and retrofitted in 1937 for its current library use. - Application is for replacing two front windows at the cellar level with operable windows and for a horizontal extension at the cellar and first floor levels at the rear yard.

Dear Chair Carroll,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on July 20, 2022, the board unanimously approved the following resolution by a vote of 44 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS 53 East 79th Street, the John S. and Catherine C. Rogers House, is an Italian Renaissance-style townhouse designed by Trowbridge and Livingston and constructed in 1916-1917;

WHEREAS 53 East 79th Street was retrofitted in 1937 for its current use as The New York Society Library;

WHEREAS the applicant proposes to expand at the rear at the cellar and first floor levels to create more space or stacks for books;

WHEREAS the proposed extension or infill into the rear yard would be 10' wide x 42' long x 23' high;

WHEREAS while the existing rear yard is 12' wide, the Zoning Code does not allow for construction all the way to the rear property line;

WHEREAS the applicant also proposes to replace two windows at the sidewalk (cellar level) at the front elevation with operable hopper windows to match existing historic windows as closely as possible, the existing historic grilles will remain;

WHEREAS the two windows, now covered with plywood painted black, will provide light and air to the space behind the windows;

WHEREAS at the rear, the doughnut has already been compromised by rear extensions; the new Peter Pennoyer Architects-designed apartment building ("The Benson"), directly west of the proposed west-facing elevation of the extension, on Madison Avenue, has a blank concrete wall on its rear property line;

WHEREAS the extension is not visible from the public way;

WHEREAS The Society Library received Certificate of Appropriateness approval for a similar capital project in 2002, but did not, at that time, have funding in place to move forward.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this application, for the two-story extension and the restoration of the two windows at the side walk at the front elevation, be **APPROVED** as presented.

Sincerely,

Russell Squire

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Chair

David Helpern and Jane Parshall

David Helpern and Jane Parshall
Co-Chairs, Landmarks Committee

cc: Honorable Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Julie Menin, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District