



The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

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CITY COUNCIL CONFIRMS REAPPOINTMENT OF LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION ROBERT B. TIERNEY AND APPOINTMENT OF NEW COMMISSIONER

The Landmarks Preservation Commission today announced that the City Council approved the appointment of architect Roberta Washington as a new Commissioner, and the reappointment of Chair Robert B. Tierney to a second term. The City Council confirmed both today on a 47-0, and a 46-1 vote, respectively.

“The City of New York could not have a better steward of its cultural, historic and aesthetic heritage than Roberta Washington,” Chair Tierney said. “A long-time architect with a specialty in restoring and adaptively reusing historic buildings, Ms. Washington will be an asset not only to the Commission, but the entire City in the years ahead. I am delighted that the Council confirmed her appointment.”

The Landmarks Preservation Commission is responsible for protecting and preserving New York City’s architecturally, historically and culturally significant buildings and sites. Since its creation in 1965, LPC has granted landmark status to nearly 24,000 properties in all five boroughs and oversees most exterior alterations made to them. Under the law that created LPC, the Commission must be comprised of at least three architects, a historian, a realtor, a planner or landscape architect, as well as a representative of each borough. There are 11 commissioners, all of whom are appointed by the Mayor for staggered three- year terms and are unpaid, with the exception of the Chair.

Ms. Washington is the principal of Roberta Washington Architects, PC, a Manhattan-based firm whose projects include the design of a \$25 million environmentally sustainable residential building in Harlem, the restoration of the wooden porches on Harlem’s famed Astor Row on West 130th Street, and work on the Heckscher Theater at the Museo Del Barrio. She also has designed several health facilities and schools in the New York area, including the Interfaith Specialty Clinic in Brooklyn. Her firm is currently designing the African Burial Ground Interpretive Center in Lower Manhattan. Ms. Washington received a bachelor’s degree in architecture at Howard University, and a master’s degree in architecture Columbia University. She is a former member of Community Board 10 in Central Harlem where she served for several years as Chair of the Housing Committee and Co-Chair of Land Use Committee.

She will serve as one of the Manhattan representatives on the Commission. She replaces Commissioner Richard M. Olcott, who is stepping down from the Commission after three terms.

As Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, Commissioner Tierney oversees a staff of 70 with a \$4.6 million budget. He was first appointed in January 2003. Under his leadership, the Commission has

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granted landmark status to nearly 1,850 buildings -- 82 percent of which are located outside of Manhattan -- and has approved a record 50,000 permits for preservation work.

“It is a great honor for me to lead agency that is endowed with a dedicated and highly skilled staff, and to serve as the Chair of an esteemed panel of professionals, and I am grateful to Mayor Bloomberg for his confidence in me,” Chair Tierney said. “The mission of LPC goes to the heart of what makes this City what it is today – a unique place with a rich cultural, aesthetic and historic heritage that all of us see every day in our built environment. To be even the temporary trustee of that heritage and to lead a committed and dedicated agency charged with its preservation is a privilege, one that I am very proud to have undertaken.”