



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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DELORES RUBIN
Chair

Jesse R. Bodine
District Manager

April 14, 2016

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

Re: IRT Powerhouse (LP-2374), 850 12th Avenue, now Consolidated Edison Powerhouse

Dear Chair Srinivasan,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) thanks and supports the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) for prioritizing the Interborough Rapid Transit (IRT) Powerhouse/ Con-Ed Powerhouse (LP-2374) for Landmark Designation.

Since the IRT Powerhouse was first calendared in 1979, there has been much support and written testimony on behalf of its historical and architectural significance from our Board as well as the community, elected officials, art and academic institutions, historians, architects, artists, municipal societies, and preservationists. Aside from the beauty, grandeur, and scale of McKim, Mead, and White's design, the IRT Powerhouse played an integral role in shaping and enabling the growth of the city we live in today. There is no question that this structure more than satisfies the criteria for Landmark Designation.

Designation of the IRT Powerhouse is even more critical now as the city and surrounding neighborhood continues to evolve and land values rise. Con-Ed is a private-investor owned company. As needs change, it is conceivable that market forces may compel Con-Ed to sell the site for future development without regard or consideration to the fate of the Powerhouse.

The Landmark Preservation Act rose out of the debris of McKim, Mead, and White's demolished Penn Station. It was created to protect structures such as the IRT Powerhouse and prevent further shortsighted irreplaceable losses. Without protection and oversight from the LPC, our city risks losing one of its last remaining grand powerhouses.

As such, MCB4 strongly supports the long overdue designation of the IRT/ Con-Ed Powerhouse as an individual Landmark.

Sincerely,



Delores Rubin
MCB4 Chair



Jean Daniel Noland, Chair
Clinton Hell's Kitchen Land Use
and Zoning Committee

cc: Hon. Linda B. Rosenthal, New York State Assembly
Hon. Helen Rosenthal, City Council
Hon. Jerrold Nadler, New York House of Representatives
Hon. Brad Hoylman, New York State Senate
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President