



July 24, 2012

Statement in Support of Landmark Designation

I have been an active real estate broker in Sunnyside, Queens for 16 years, specializing in Sunnyside Gardens properties.

Since Sunnyside Gardens was landmarked in 2008, the appeal, the appearance and the property values have only increased, even in this generally depressed market. During this same time period, the entire neighborhood has seen a resurgence, with many new restaurants and shops, and high demand for both rental and sale properties.

Is any of that attributable to landmark designation? There is no way of knowing precisely, but I do know that both buyers and renters are drawn to historical and charming neighborhoods that are not just a mass of cookie cutter buildings. Many people who have come to my office for the first time comment on how appealing they find the area. The motto of the Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce is "small town in the big city" -- an ambiance comes from the sections of older buildings and their smaller scale, as well as many small businesses.

I see landmark designation as beneficial not only to Sunnyside Gardens, but Sunnyside as a whole. I would hope that it continues to be possible for neighborhoods with buildings and areas of historical significance to preserve that quality for everyone to enjoy, where both old and new can exist in a mix that makes each neighborhood unique.

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