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**Gale A. Brewer, Borough President**

November 29, 2016

## **Testimony of Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer on Proposed Designation of Sullivan-Thompson Historic District (LP-2590)**

I am Basha Gerhards, Deputy Director of Land Use, and I am here on behalf of Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer to express our support for the designation of the Sullivan-Thompson Historic District – the third phase of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation’s (GVSHP) proposed South Village Historic District.

For over a decade, GVSHP has led the effort to preserve the South Village including listing the entire neighborhood on the State and National Registers of Historic Places as an effort to protect the nearly intact low-rise rowhouses and tenement buildings constructed between the late 19<sup>th</sup> and mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries and recognize the neighborhood’s unique working-class and immigrant history.

It is important to maintain and preserve the historic integrity of the proposed district. It reflects the rich cultural history of a neighborhood where groups of many backgrounds settled during the years of peak immigration. Designation of the Sullivan-Thompson Historic District will also protect historic buildings and deter the demolition of historic structures and construction of out-of-character development.

Therefore, we urge you to designate the proposed Sullivan-Thompson Historic District.

I want to express appreciation to Council Member Corey Johnson and to Andrew Berman of the *Greenwich Village* Society for Historic Preservation for their on-going advocacy for this designation, and I thank the LPC for your time and consideration on this matter.