



TESTIMONY BY BOROUGH PRESIDENT ERIC L. ADAMS

TO THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

REGARDING THE PROPOSED CHESTER COURT HISTORIC DISTRICT

November 25, 2014

I want to thank Landmarks Preservation Commission Chairman Meenakshi Srinivasan and the agency's staff, including the Research Unit directed by Mary Beth Betts, for taking a look at Chester Court regarding the establishment of a historic district.

Thank you for taking the time today to listen firsthand to what the community has to say about Chester Court as an architecturally significant street — and for allowing me to voice my support for the designation of the enclave just off Flatbush Avenue.

I would also like to thank all the members of the Commission and agency staff who make these hearings possible, as well as commend the Chester Court Block Association, led by Leslie Wright, for their tireless efforts to ensure that, as Brooklyn grows, a balance between preservation and development endures.

Chester Court's 18 two-and-one-half stories Tudor Revival-style houses along this dead-end street, featuring faux half-timber framing, have stood the test of time and are celebrating their century mark this year. They are also historically significant because they were designed by Peter J. Collins, who also served as Brooklyn Commissioner of Buildings. Collectively, these buildings represent the best of the warmth and character that define Brooklyn's architectural heritage.

The buildings in the proposed district celebrate Prospect-Lefferts Gardens' rich cultural heritage and are worthy of being protected, rather than being undervalued as mere assets in this opportunistic real estate market.

Serving the neighborhood for a decade in the New York State Senate, I am very familiar with the grandeur of the buildings along Chester Court.

Simply put, the establishment of the historic district is good planning. We are preserving the architectural integrity of one of Brooklyn's most architecturally distinguished streets, which lure enthusiasts of art and architecture to our borough.

I am confident that the Landmarks Preservation Commission will agree that this preservation area is worthy of their approval — and adopt this proposal.

Thank you.