

□ **DISTRICT OFFICE**

5601 5TH AVENUE, S-2
BROOKLYN, NY 11220
TEL: (718) 439-9012
FAX: (718) 439-9042

□ **CITY HALL OFFICE**

250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1759
NEW YORK, NY 10007
TEL: (212) 788-7372
FAX: (212) 788-7768

E-MAIL: cmenchaca@council.nyc.gov



THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

CARLOS MENCHACA

COUNCIL MEMBER
38TH DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

CHAIR

IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE

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SMALL BUSINESS

STANDARDS & ETHICS

TRANSPORTATION

March 19, 2014

Commissioners
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioners:

I am proud to represent the Sunset Park community, which contains one of the largest National Register Historic Districts in the United States. Greenwood Cemetery in Sunset Park is a National Historic Landmark, and its gates and chapel are New York City Landmarks. Several other buildings in the district are also city and national landmarks. However, these well-deserved distinctions for Sunset Park do not protect the homes and streetscapes in historic neighborhoods from out-of-character development that diminishes the character and history so important to our diverse communities. I support the creation of a landmark district in Sunset Park, to preserve the beauty and continuity that has made this area such a desirable place to live, work, and visit in Brooklyn for over a century.

Sunset Park has traditionally been a beacon, offering the opportunity for home ownership to immigrants and the middle class. Sunset Park has allowed people of modest means to live in some of the most historically and culturally significant exemplars of Renaissance Revival, Romanesque Revival, neo-Grec, Classical Revival and neo-Renaissance homes in the world. One hidden feature of the houses in the proposed landmark district that distinguishes it is that the outwardly appearing one-family homes actually house two families. This enables one of the units to be used as a source of rental income.

Residents of Sunset Park fear that out-of-scale and out-of-character development may threaten the unique fabric of the existing building environment and the neighborhood. Landmarking the most exemplary blocks in Sunset Park will preserve the treasured architecture for current and future generations, and continue to make the neighborhood an attractive destination in New York City to visit and to live.

Over 2,600 residents, the vast majority of homeowners in the study area, as well as a leading coalition of community organizations have expressed support for the creation of a landmarked historic district in Sunset Park. While I have heard legitimate concerns regarding the increased red tape, upkeep and improvement project expenses bore by homeowners, and the potential rent increases that could flow from that, these concerns have been few and I am committed to working with all affected residents to address these concerns streamline the process for home repair and improvement approvals if and when the landmark district is created. In conclusion, I urge the Landmarks Preservation Commission and my colleagues in the City Council to approve the creation of the landmark district in Sunset Park. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlos A.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carlos Menchaca
Council Member for the 38th Council District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY



FELIX W. ORTIZ
Assemblyman 51st District
Kings County

CHAIR
CITIES COMMITTEE

CHAIR
PUERTO RICAN/HISPANIC TASK FORCE

CHAIR
Subcommittee on Sweatshops

COMMITTEES
Correction
Labor
Rules
Ways and Means

May 14, 2014

Commissioners
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioners:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support on behalf of the Sunset Park Landmarks Committee's (SPLC) Request for Evaluation (RFE) to create a Landmark District in Sunset Park. The organization's efforts to preserve the community's unique cultural and historic aspects help to make Sunset Park a desirable place to live and work.

South Brooklyn's Sunset Park has been my home for many years. I have watched the transformation and growth of this beautiful neighborhood where many of my constituents have lived, worked, and raised families of their own. I am honored to be a part of this historical neighborhood.

By creating a Sunset Park Landmark District (including the 22 blocks comprising the Sunset Park National Register Historic District, worthy alone of designation and protection under the New York City Landmarks Law), you will be preserving the history of this culturally diverse community. Sunset Park has been home to immigrants since the late 19th century who were the original settlers of this great neighborhood and who continue to call it home today. Unlike several other neighborhoods in Brownstone Brooklyn, Sunset Park was developed for working class families and it remains a predominantly working class neighborhood today.

I strongly support this Request for Evaluation to the Landmarks Preservation Commission and I urge you to approve the creation of this Landmark District.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact my office at (718) 492-6334 if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Felix W. Ortiz".

Felix W. Ortiz
Member of Assembly

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1669 Bedford Avenue, 2nd Floor
Brooklyn, New York 11225
Phone: (718) 284-4700
Fax: (718) 282-3585

ALBANY OFFICE:
Legislative Office Building, Room 608
Albany, New York 12247
Phone: (518) 284-4700
Fax: (518) 426-6856



NEW YORK STATE SENATE
SENATOR JESSE HAMILTON

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EDUCATION
ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

November 30, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Landmark Protection for Sunset Park

I have the honor of representing Sunset Park in Brooklyn, a neighborhood that is itself an architectural gem with row after row of well-preserved brownstones and other historic buildings. Both the charming scale and the unique style of these buildings deserve landmark protection. Importantly, I am joined in this conclusion about landmark status by Community Board #7, neighborhood organizations, and many neighborhood residents.

Sunset Park is comparable to Park Slope in its architectural consistency. The big difference is that the integrity and value of Park Slope has already received landmark protection for many buildings. Sunset Park has not yet attained this status. Given the rapid pace of potential development, Sunset Park needs landmark protection as a matter of urgency.

I urge the Landmark Preservation Commission to act promptly to give the Sunset Park neighborhood the protection it deserves. I wholeheartedly endorse the impressive proposal by the Sunset Park Landmarks Committee. If you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact my Director of Community Affairs, Raul Rothblatt, at (718) 284-4700.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jesse Hamilton".

Jesse Hamilton
New York State Senator, 20th District

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

7TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

March 4, 2014

Commissioners
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my strong support for a NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission historic district designation in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, requested by the organization Sunset Park Landmarks Committee.

The Sunset Park neighborhood, located in my Congressional District and where I lived for many years, occupies a unique place in New York and American history. With New York Harbor's dominance in North American shipping during the 19th century, the neighborhood up the slope from the Bush Terminal waterfront grew with thousands of row houses constructed for middle- and working-class families. From the late 1880's through the turn of the century, row houses were built in a variety of styles ranging from frame neo-Grec, to masonry Queen Anne, Romanesque Revival, and neo-Renaissance. At the top of the hill, Green Wood Cemetery boasts monuments and buildings executed by some of the most prominent architects and artists of their time. In 1988, the U.S. Department of Interior, National Parks Service together with the State of New York Historic Preservation Office added 3,237 Sunset Park buildings to the New York State and National Register of Historic Places, constituting one of the largest in the Northeastern United States. However, with increasing development pressures threatening the fabric of the neighborhood, National and State historic designation is not enough to protect the integrity of these two- and three-family buildings. The Sunset Park neighborhood deserves the protections that NYC landmark designation and afford.

I wholeheartedly support the Sunset Park Landmarks Committee's application. I am proud of the neighborhood's architectural beauty, and trust you will agree it warrants city historic designation. Should you require additional information from my office, please contact Dan Wiley of my staff at (718) 222-5819. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

SARA M. GONZALEZ
COUNCIL MEMBER, 38TH DISTRICT
BROOKLYN

DISTRICT OFFICE
5601-5TH AVENUE, SUITE #2
BROOKLYN, NY 11220
TEL (718) 439-9012
FAX (718) 439-9042

CITY HALL OFFICE
250 BROADWAY, ROOM 1725
NEW YORK, NY 10007
TEL (212) 788-7372
FAX (212) 788-7768

gonzalez@council.nyc.ny.us



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THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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SUB – COMMITTEES
PLANNING, DISPOSITIONS &
CONCESSIONS

Commissioners
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10007

December 6, 2013

Dear Commissioners,

In recent years, there has been a growing call within one of the largest neighborhoods in my District, Sunset Park, for landmark protection. With the unfortunate proliferation of out-of-scale, out-of-context development, many homeowners and residents have become increasingly worried about losing the historic and contextual character of the area.

To that end, I strongly supported and ushered through a 125-block rezoning of Sunset Park in 2009. This rezoning downzoned the area in order to protect the low-rise, rowhouse character of local side streets, many built between 1890 and 1910. In 2012 a local grassroots coalition of concerned residents formed as the Sunset Park Landmarks Committee (SPLC). My office assisted and supported the SPLC, which led to Sunset Park winning a spot in the HDC's 2013 "Six To Celebrate" program.

Over the course of 2013, the SPLC has worked diligently to inform the Sunset Park community about the importance of landmarking in our neighborhood. The SPLC has hosted monthly meetings, canvassed homeowners on fifteen blocks within the proposed landmark area, held sixteen tabling events to inform the general public of their efforts, and hosted seven walking tours of Sunset Park, showing off our neighborhood to people from all over the city. They have been met with enthusiastic support and have garnered 2,500 signatures supporting this cause.

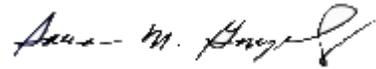
Very real concerns persist over the level of threat to the historic integrity and character of the neighborhood. While there are a few significant landmarked buildings sprinkled throughout the area (including the former 68th Police Precinct Station House and the Sunset Park Recreation Center), most of Sunset Park's residential blocks have been overlooked, despite the neighborhood being home to New York State's largest federal historic register district. The United States Department of the Interior and New York State Historic Preservation Office have listed thousands of homes between 4th Avenue and 7th Avenue, from 38th to 64th Street on the National and State Registers of Historic Places, making this the largest historic district in the

northeast United States. Unfortunately, such designation does not offer the sort of protections many residents seek.

I strongly support the Sunset Park Request for Evaluation to the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Additionally, 2,500 residents have signed the SPLC petition to support preservation and on several of the canvassed blocks there is high homeowner support of 75% and above.

I sincerely thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara M. González". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "S" and "G".

Sara M. González
Councilwoman, District 38
