



Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

June 21, 2016

The Honorable Bill deBlasio
Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Amend Intro 775-A The Landmarks Timeline Bill

Dear Mayor deBlasio,

I am writing on behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) with concerns regarding the Proposed Amendment to Intro 775-A The Landmarks Timeline Bill.

While the City Council voted on June 9th to approve this proposed amendment, we are writing to urge you not to signs it into legislation as written. The one public hearing held last September brought in over 100 community members and organizations opposed to this bill. While this bill admittedly provides for some needed changes in the process, it does not address many of the public’s concerns. These revolve around the lack of flexibility needed to review historic districts and the license given individuals to essentially control the public good with the “written concurrence of the owner” veto provision. Perhaps most importantly, it does not provide needed funding for LPC staff to tackle what will be an increased workload without an increase in resources. These issues need to be addressed prior to this bill being made into legislation.

While PANYC agrees that there needs to be more efficiency and accountability in the process, rigid legislation is not an effective way to accomplish this. This essentially unfunded legislation will actually create untenable roadblocks to communities working hard to save their neighborhoods, their homes, and their sense of place within the city. We urge you not to sign this bill into legislation.

Sincerely,

Kelly M Britt, PhD,
PANYC President

CC: Daniel Allen, Board President, Historic Districts Council
Alicia Glen, Deputy Mayor for Housing and Economic Development, City of New York
Melisa Mark-Viverito, Speaker of the New York City Council
David G. Greenfield, Chair of the Land Use Committee
Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair Landmarks Preservation Commission

