



**West End Preservation Society Statement before the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission in  
Support of the Proposed Riverside-West End District Extension II** **October 25, 2011**

Good Afternoon Chair Tierney, Commissioners and Staff, thank you so much. My name is Richard Emery and on behalf of West End Preservation Society, Erika Petersen, Josette Amato, Batya Lewton and all the others who have worked so hard, we want to, first of all, thank this Commission.

In these days of government cynicism, at every level of government, this Commission stands uniquely as a responsive, high-minded, incredibly hard working group of public servants, who get very little in return but a lot of grief from many aspects of this city; you are doing God's work in my opinion.

This commission is an amazing collection of people who care about the values of New York City, the community of New York City and probably is the single most important source of preserving and elevating those values that we have in the city today.

It's very exciting to me. I've lived in this city, virtually, all my life. I've struggled for this city to be more transparent and open in lots of the litigation that I've done, hopefully in the public interest. This Commission stands tall in the efforts to make NYC a better place.

In that regard, so too have the public servants, the elected officials who have supported this effort. This effort was born of a vision among a few of us and it has caught fire. The amazing thing is that we have virtually no opposition. I suggest to you, you know much better than I because I don't come to your hearings, that there are very few hearings where you have such uniform support, such modest opposition. We have had very little opposition with this.

Among the elected officials it has been unanimous; we have had vigorous and vital support for every aspect of this effort including and most importantly the expansion which this commission brought to the table from the much more narrow approach that we originally included in our Request For Evaluation.

The second point, I want to make, is that this commission is responsible therefore for the sense of community that has been at the core of what we've been trying to do. West End Avenue really is a community. Riverside-

