**Valerie S. Mason**
**Chair**

**Ian McKnight**
**District Manager**

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**The City of New York**
**Community Board 8 Manhattan**

April 24, 2026

Angie Master, Acting Chair
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
One Center Street, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10007

**RE: 1 East 75th Street (Upper East Side Historic District)** – *Ambrose Aliaga-Kelly* – A Renaissance style building designed by H. D. Hale and J. G. Rogers and constructed between 1907 and 1909. Application is for the installation of exterior platform lift and door operators at main building entrance.

Dear Acting Chair Master,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on April 22, 2026, the Board unanimously approved the following resolution by a vote of 37 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

**WHEREAS** 1 East 75th Street sits on the northeast corner of 75th Street and Fifth Avenue and was designated an Individual Landmark in 1967 (LP-0415); and

**WHEREAS** the impressive building was built as the residence of Edward Harkness in 1909, and has been the Headquarters of the Commonwealth Fund since 1952 following the death of the widow of Mr. Harkness in 1950; and

**WHEREAS** the applicant proposes to introduce a wheelchair lift and door operator for accessibility; and

**WHEREAS** the height of the entrance and the "moat" that separates the sidewalk from the building precludes the use of a ramp; and

**WHEREAS** to that end, the applicant proposes to introduce a lift that will "store between the west side of the entry stairs and the ornamental fence that surrounds the "moat"; and

**WHEREAS** the applicant proposes to install a signaling post adjacent to the fence which will activate the lift and the door opener and posts to support the guiderails; and

**WHEREAS** the lift and its associated hardware and guiderails will be painted to match the existing bronze metalwork of the fence and entry door; and

**WHEREAS** the installation of the lift will result in an easily reversible change to the existing building and minimal visual disruption of the facade; and

**WHEREAS** the Committee commended the applicants for their clear and concise presentation and noted the simple elegance of the proposed solution; and

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that this application is **APPROVED** as presented.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

*Valerie S. Mason* *Anthony Cohn, David Helpern, and Jane Parshall*

Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Anthony Cohn, David Helpern, and Jane Parshall
Co-Chairs, Landmarks Committee

cc: Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York State
Honorable Zohran Mamdani, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Jerry Nadler, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Edward Gibbs, NYS Assembly Member, 68th Assembly District
Honorable Alex Bores, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member, 76th Assembly District
Honorable Julie Menin, Speaker, NYC Council, 5th Council District
Honorable Virginia Maloney, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District
Honorable Elsie Encarnacion, NYC Council Member, 8th Council District