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JUDICIARY

April 1, 2013

Robert Tierney
Chair
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Tierney:

I am writing in support of Manhattan Community Board 5's (CB5) March 14, 2013 Request for Evaluation for the designation of The Deborah, Jonathan F. P., Samuel Priest, and Adam R. Rose Main Reading Room (Rose Reading Room), located at 476 Fifth Avenue, as an Interior Landmark.

As you know, the Rose Reading Room is located within the New York Public Library's (NYPL) iconic Central Building, which was designated as an Individual Landmark in 1967. In addition, the Main Lobby, North and South Staircases from the 1st to the 3rd floors, and the Central Hall on the 3rd floor were designated as Interior Landmarks in 1974. As CB5 noted in its unanimously adopted resolution, the Rose Reading Room is internationally renowned for its grandeur and elegance, worthy of comparison to other distinguished library spaces such as Bibliotheque St. Genevieve in Paris, Wren's Trinity Library in Cambridge, and the Austrian National Library in Vienna. However, the space itself is unique both in its superlative beauty and its monumental size. Visitors from around the world and native New Yorkers alike are struck by the ceiling's recessed murals and gilded plaster ornamentation, the red Welsh quarry tile floor, and the 22-foot American white oak tabletops resting on marble bases. These are just a few of the many majestic Old World features of the Rose Reading Room, which together create an irresistible beacon of aspiration and learning.

As a member of the Senate Select Committee on Libraries and the Senator whose district includes NYPL's Central Building, I strongly believe that the Rose Reading Room merits favorable consideration for interior landmark designation, and, again, I echo CB5's Request for Evaluation.



Please contact me at (212) 633-8052 if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brad Hoylman". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Brad Hoylman
New York State Senate
27th District