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**Statement of Council Member Daniel R. Garodnick**  
**Public Hearing on 17 and 26 West 56th Street**  
**Landmarks Preservation Commission**  
**March 24, 2009**

Chairman Tierney and members of the Landmarks Preservation Commission: thank you for allowing me to make a brief statement concerning nos. 17 and 26 West 56th Street.

I represent the portion of the West Fifties which includes those buildings, known as the Edith Andrews Logan and E. Hayward Ferry residences, respectively. Constructed in the 1870s and redesigned in the early 20th Century, these buildings are notable for their architectural and historical significance, and for lending a distinct sense of place to their Midtown neighborhood. I urge you to landmark these buildings without delay.

Originally designed in 1870 by John G. Prague, an architect whose work endures in both the Upper East Side and Upper West Side Historic Districts, 17 West 56th came into its own following its purchase by John and Edith Logan in 1903. (Edith Andrews Logan was the niece of financier and New York Steam Company president Wallace C. Andrews.) The Logans hired prominent architect August N. Allen, whose work also survives in the Upper East Side Historic District, to remodel the building in the Georgian style. The resulting changes—a brick façade highlighted by stone lintels, an iron balconnette and a mansard roof pierced by three pedimented dormers—distinguished the building from some of its equally notable neighbors, and all remain intact today.

The E. Hayward Ferry Residence, at 26 West 56th Street, is one of those notable neighbors. Along with the Frederick C. and Birdsall Otis Edey Residence at no. 10, the Harry B. Hollins Residence at no. 12-14 and the Henry Seligman Residence at no. 30 West 56th Street—all of which are individual New York City Landmarks—the E. Hayward Ferry residence is very well-preserved part of “Bankers’ Row,” the group of townhouses built as residences for bankers on this block.

Ferry, who was president of the Hanover National Bank, purchased the building from Seligman in 1908. Its copper, arched-top dormers, mansard roof and detailed ornamentation (which includes a carved wreath adorning a lion’s head above the entrance) are among the many intact Beaux-Arts elements that were designed in 1907 by architect H.A. Jacobs, who trained at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, and who designed the Marseilles Hotel on the

Upper West Side and the Andrew Freedman House in the Bronx, both designated New York City Landmarks. Adding to the building's historical pedigree was its duration, from 1959 into the mid 1960s, as the home and studio of fashion designer Arnold Scaasi, who has created gowns for First Ladies including Mamie Eisenhower, Jacqueline Kennedy and Hillary Clinton.

Both nos. 17 and 26 West 56th Street are remarkable, surviving examples of the distinguished single-family homes that were once common in this section of Midtown. Amid the commercial towers for which Midtown is better known, these townhouses preserve an important part of the City's history, and add a depth of character and valuable architectural significance to the neighborhood. I again urge their landmarking.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.