

The Architectural League of New York

March 8, 1990

The Honorable David Dinkins, Mayor
City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Dinkins:

This is to express formally the concern of the Architectural League that the position of Chairperson of the New York City Planning Commission has now remained so long unfilled.

We are well aware that the new City Charter has substantially changed the role of Chairperson of the Commission. Doing the job hereafter will require a very high level of political experience and skill. It is surely true, however, that the necessary level of skill can be found in a person who understands and is committed to the importance of the Commission's physical and environmental business and that, supported by a Commission that includes architects and urban designers, such a person could give the Commission the insight, expertise, and direction it needs.

Among the many responsibilities of the Planning Commission, perhaps the most important to the League is the Commission's power, through control of the Zoning Resolution, to set the ground rules for architecture throughout the city. The Resolution in its current form is not consistently generating the physical City we want. Much work needs to be done to refine and improve the Zoning Resolution so that it calls forth a truly acceptable public environment and encourages the high quality of architecture that New York City deserves.

The Planning Commission and the City have suffered seriously in the last decade from leadership which was largely indifferent to the quality of our physical environment. You have the opportunity to establish an entirely new tone on these issues by your appointments to the Planning Commission. We strongly urge you to press forward with your search for a chairperson and for qualified commissioners to get on with this exceedingly important part of the public business.

If there is any way the League can help, please let us know.

Very truly yours,


Paul S. Byard
President

cc: Barbara Fife, Deputy Mayor

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