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October 11, 2013

Hon. Robert J. Tierney
Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: The Park Avenue Christian Church and Parish House at 1010 Park Avenue, Manhattan Tax Map Block 1496, Lot 41

Dear Chair Tierney,

CIVITAS is in support of the designation of the Park Avenue Christian Church and Parish House located at 1010 Park Avenue (Manhattan Tax Map Block 1496, Lot 41) as an individual landmark. For both its cultural and historical significance, we ask the Commission to protect 1010 Park Avenue right away.

The Park Avenue Christian Church and Parish House was designed by renowned architects Cram, Goodhue & Ferguson, is an intact, Gothic Revival-style complex constructed in 1911. Inspired by La Sainte-Chapelle in Paris, the church boasts a 70-foot spire and exquisite stained-glass windows by Louis Comfort Tiffany. It is an exceptional example of the ecclesiastical Gothic Revival type and style, which should be preserved.

The designation of this site at this time is particularly important because of the proposed plans submitted by Extell Development to erect a 210 foot tower which would replace the parish house and cantilever over the church. The proposed development of the church site could cause the demolition or obliteration through alteration of this significant site.

We encourage the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission to move quickly in designating the Park Avenue Christian Church and Parish House.

Sincerely,

Lauren O'Toole
Interim Executive Director

CC:

Hon. Daniel R. Garodnick, NYC Councilmember
Manhattan Community Board 8
Michele Birnbaum, Historic Park Avenue
Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts