

May 5, 2021

Erik Kulleseid
Commissioner
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
Albany, NY 12238

Daniel Mackay
Deputy Commissioner
Division for Historic Preservation
New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
OPRHP, PO Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188

Re: Support for Paddy's Market Historic District, Hell's Kitchen, New York City

Dear Commissioners Kulleseid and Mackay,

On February 25th, 2021, at the Hudson Yards Hell's Kitchen Alliance (HYHK) Board meeting, Clinton Housing Development Company (CHDC) presented a nomination to list Paddy's Market in Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood of Manhattan on the National Register for Historic Places.

The Paddy's Market Historic District nomination is within the boundaries of the HYHK Business Improvement District and would include nine block fronts on either side of Ninth Avenue between West 35th and West 40th Streets. CHDC plans to partner with the HYHK Business Improvement District for outreach to the local property owners as part of the application process. HYHK strongly recommends approval of CHDC's nomination.

Proposed Paddy's Market District

The proposed District is part of the stretch of Ninth Avenue from West 35th to West 40th Streets, which was home for half a century to the legendary Paddy's Market. Originally, Paddy's Market was located beneath the Ninth Avenue Elevated (the "El"), the city's oldest elevated line, constructed in 1867 and survived, in part, until 1958. Though officially closed in 1938, Paddy's Market persisted into the early 2000's, with several legacy stores still today purveying food to the Clinton/Hell's Kitchen community.

The District boundaries would be inclusive of the Ninth Avenue corridor, primarily on the east side of the Avenue but also on the west side, as well as the intact collection of extant converted dwellings and tenements on the side streets, which are associated with the history of Paddy's Market.

The proposed District would include nearly fifty buildings, most of them pre-law or old-law tenements dating from as early as 1868 to the late 1890s. In many cases, their storefronts remain intact, even as they continue to house food stores and restaurants.

HYHK / CHDC Discussion & Collaboration

The businesses on 9th Avenue have been severely affected by Covid. HYHK recognizes the benefits that the designation can confer to businesses, such as access to federal and state grants for storefront improvements and federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits to boost economic recovery in the neighborhood.

After extensive discussion, the HYHK Board agreed to support the nomination of the Historic District to the National Register for Historic Places, and further agreed to collaborate to do outreach to property owners who are constituents of the BID. HYHK is currently working with CHDC to create materials for outreach to building owners as part of the National Register for Historic Places nomination process. HYHK and CHDC is also working to propose the Historic District as 9th Avenue main street to NYC as an economic stabilization and improvement project, and as a marketing identity opportunity for the BID to assist in recovery for retail businesses impacted by Covid-19. It was discussed that as part of the Special Hudson Yards Zoning district, in the Hell's Kitchen Sub-district, residential buildings are protected from demolition.

Celebrating Our Immigrant Heritage

The Board has long been aware that the special nature of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood is due, in large part, to its historic legacy of immigrant, social, labor, and artistic history. Waves of immigrants — Irish, Italian, German, and Greek — and U.S. migrants — Native American, Puerto Rican, African American, Southern, Northern, and Western — have called it home and immeasurably enriched the city — and the nation.

The designation of Paddy's Market as a historic district honors the Irish and all those immigrants who made, and still make, New York City the great city it is.

HYHK / CHDC Collaboration

HYHK is working with CHDC to create materials for outreach to building owners as part of the National Register designation process. HYHK recognizes the benefits that the designation can confer to businesses, such as access to NYC and NYS grants for storefront improvements and federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits. HYHK and CHDC is also working to pitch the Historic District as 9th Avenue main street to NYC as an economic stabilization and improvement project, and as a marketing identity opportunity for the BID to assist in recovery for retail businesses impacted by Covid-19

Hudson Yards Hell's Kitchen Alliance
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Given its long history, its place in New York City lore, and its survival in spirit along today's Ninth Avenue, Paddy's Market deserves designation as a New York State Historic District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert J. Bafatta, Jr.".

President
Hudson Yards Hell's Kitchen Alliance