



April 8, 2022

Erik Kulleseid  
Commissioner  
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & 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: Paddy's Market Historic District, Hell's Kitchen, New York City**

Dear Commissioner Kulleseid and Deputy Commissioner Mackay:

I write to express my support for the Paddy's Market Historic District located along Ninth Avenue between West 35<sup>th</sup> and West 40<sup>th</sup> streets. The applicant, Clinton Housing Developing Company, is seeking to include the area on the New York State and the National Registers of Historic Places. These designations would provide several benefits, including assistance with preservation, heritage tourism, public education, access to grants, tax incentives, and federal preservation funds.

The Paddy's Market Historic District includes dozens of historic tenement buildings, commercial and industrial buildings, a church, and a former stable. The tenement buildings were constructed with storefronts, which were typical around the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Many of these structures have retained their height, materials, and style. Between 1885 and 1939, the open-air market along the avenue was a prominent feature of Hell's Kitchen, as it was operated and supported by local residents, many of whom were German and Irish immigrants. In 1917, the New York Herald cited that "'Paddy's Market', In 'Hell's Kitchen', sets an example in solving the food problem." This part of Manhattan is important to the story of how working-class New Yorkers sold and purchased food and other wares on the West Side of Manhattan in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The market became even more active after the elevated Ninth Avenue subway was built and although the market was not as lively in post-war Hell's Kitchen, the area still includes food shops and lively storefronts.

I firmly support including the Paddy's Market Historic District on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places. This nomination is precisely what we should be advancing: historic sites that pay an homage to immigrant contributions and advance our City's history and equity.

Thank you for your consideration and review of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Levine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Levine" clearly distinguishable.

Mark Levine  
Manhattan Borough President