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CITYBRIDGE/LINK5G TOWERS

SITE: MN-08-GF0952_A

ADDRESS: 500 East 63rd Street EBI # 016305-PR

CONSULTING PARTY: FRIENDS of the Upper East Side Historic Districts, Inc.

COMMENTS: FRIENDS of the Upper East Side Historic Districts believes that the proposed Link5G tower installation at 500 East 63rd Street will have an adverse effect on the following historic resources:

- Rockefeller University Historic District
- City and Suburban Homes Company's First Avenue Estate Historic District

The 32-foot tall, chrome Link5G tower will create a "change in the character of the property's use or setting" and introduce "incompatible visual, atmospheric, or audible elements" to Rockefeller University Historic District and City and Suburban Homes Company's First Avenue Estate Historic District on York Avenue. While the tower doesn't physically damage any historic properties, it irrevocably alters the viewshed of all adjacent historic resources.

Architects Harrison & Abramovitz and Daniel Kiley's mid-century design approaches are nothing short of masterful at Rockefeller University, a wealthy institution with an extensive endowment. The buildings of the Rockefeller University expansion were profiled along with other modern standouts in a 2001 exhibit entitled *Modern Architecture on the Upper East Side: Landmarks of the Future*. Since that time, the Beekman Theater Block (Fellheimer & Wagner, 1952), Cinema I and II (Abraham W. Geller Associates, 1962), Group Residence for Young Adults (Horace Ginsbern, 1968), and the Richard Feigen Gallery (Hans Hollein, 1969) have all been either lost or heavily altered. The grounds of Rockefeller University serve as an excellent case study in urban campus design and provide a unique experience in New York's built environment. For these reasons, Rockefeller University Historic District qualifies for designation under Criteria for Evaluation, Criterion C: embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values.

The First Avenue Estate, a multi-building complex built by the City and Suburban Homes Company between 1898 and 1915, was a pioneering experiment in workers' housing, which endeavored to give low-income New Yorkers access to safe, clean homes. As the one of the most successful privately-financed, limited-dividend Model Tenements in New York, First Avenue Estate redefined what affordable urban housing could offer. A designated landmark, First Avenue Estate also qualifies for designation under Criteria for Evaluation, Criterion C: embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values.



The Link5G tower design is out of scale and out of place in the vicinity of any historic resource. There are dozens of more appropriate design solutions for building out 5G connectivity infrastructure that have been successfully employed in other cities. The same goal of broadening access to 5G could easily be achieved through less obtrusive interventions.

Zeynep Turan
Manager of Preservation and Outreach
FRIENDS of the Upper East Side Historic Districts