



August 11, 2026

The Honorable Zohran Mamdani
Mayor, City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Tricia Shimamura
Commissioner, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Paul Ochoa
Commissioner, Department of Design and Construction
30-30 Thomson Avenue
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Mayor Mamdani, Commissioner Shimamura, and Commissioner Ochoa:

As elected officials representing the West Village, we first want to thank Commissioner Shimamura for providing a recent update regarding the plan for the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center on Clarkson Street.

As your Administration continues to define the path forward for recreation facilities at this location, we want to be clear: any new or renovated recreation program on Clarkson Street must, at a minimum, preserve the visible façade of the existing Tony Dapolito building, bring the on-site, outdoor aquatic facilities up to code, and maximize preservation and utilization of the existing building. Parks should do everything in its power to maintain as many recreation services as possible within the existing space.

Our community fully recognizes that the needs of residents have grown. Families, seniors, and young people in this neighborhood deserve access to a state-of-the-art, spacious, and affordable public recreation center that does not require thousands of dollars in private gym memberships. High-quality public recreation space is vital to public health, social connection, and equity, particularly in a city where affordability is increasingly out of reach. We support meaningful investment and modernization at this site. At the same time, the

Dapolito Center's façade and structure is a valued and familiar piece of the neighborhood's civic fabric.

The property at 388 Hudson Street serves as an opportunity to meet the current demand for accessible public space in the West Village. We see this proposal as an addition to, not a replacement of, the continuation of meaningful programming at the Tony Dapolito site and a contributing factor of the broader Clarkson Street Revitalization effort.

A viable, forward-looking plan can and should include preservation of the Tony Dapolito Center, fully integrated into a neighboring revitalized, twenty-first-century recreation facility that meets the evolving needs of the community. Other historic structures across the City have been successfully incorporated into modern civic projects, and we believe the same creativity and responsiveness can and should be applied here.

We also request clarity from the Parks Department on the funds allocated for this project historically and their intended use for the project.

We acknowledge the long road ahead for Tony Dapolito. There is no time soon enough that we can have an open and functioning recreation center in the West Village, and we will do all that is within our power to support the Parks Department and Department of Design and Construction and prioritize our communities having access to a state-of-the-art recreation center, as promised. The building has already sat closed for too long, and we are eager to see progress as generations of West Villagers bear the cost of a prolonged closure.

There does not have to be a false choice between preservation and progress. We believe that our community can have both.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working collaboratively with you and your administration on a plan that serves the public, honors the past, and meets the needs of the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl Wilson".

Carl Wilson
Council Member, District 3

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Hoylman-Sigal".

Brad Hoylman-Sigal
Manhattan Borough President