



March 26, 2021

The Hon. Bill de Blasio
Mayor
City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Melanie La Rocca
Commissioner
NYC Department of Buildings
280 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio and Commissioner La Rocca:

Last week, it was brought to our offices' attention that portions of the structure at the former CHARAS/P.S. 64 building, located at 605 East 9th Street in Manhattan, were removed or altered and that plywood had been removed from an entrance, allowing access to the building

As you will see in the attached photographs, a window was pulled out and what we believe is anti-Semitic graffiti was sprayed on the panes of a lower window. Neighbors report that a ladder is visible on the roof, notable in the photograph, which we believe is being used for unauthorized individuals to gain access from neighboring buildings. As we wrote in our letter of December 23, 2020, enclosed here, there is clear disregard of the order issued by NYC Department of Buildings for the owner to seal the building.

While we expect an immediate re-inspection of and further agency enforcement at the site, we ask again that you take action to reacquire CHARAS/P.S. 64 before it either is allowed to deteriorate further or becomes the site of a tragic accident. Since October 2017, we have been following up on the Administration's pledge to return CHARAS/P.S. 64 to community use and have received no substantive update. And yet recently, the City purchased 227 Duffield Street in a deal to preserve that landmark. To better understand the gravity of the situation, we invite you both to visit the property with us and see for yourselves what the lack of City action has done to this community treasure.

We look forward to hearing from your soon.

Thank you,

Carolyn Maloney
US Representative

Nydia Velazquez
US Representative

Brad Hoylman
NYS Senator

Harvey Epstein
NYS Assembly Member

Scott Stringer
NYC Comptroller

Gale Brewer
Manhattan Borough President

Carlina Rivera
NYC Council Member

cc: NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission

Enclosures: 3