



**Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation**

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March 29, 2017

Hon. Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: 605 East 9th Street, Manhattan

Dear Chair Srinivasan:

I write to urge the Landmarks Preservation Commission to take decisive enforcement action in response to the ongoing and severe neglect of 605 East 9th Street, the former P.S. 64/CHARAS-El Bohio Community and Cultural Center, a New York City landmark.

We first contacted the Enforcement Department of the LPC in September of 2016 regarding multiple windows of the building being left open, thus allowing the potentially damaging exposure of the interior to the elements. We have followed up with the LPC a number of times regarding this issue and were told that the LPC has been in contact with owner. However, the windows have remained open over the past six months, including during snowstorms, rainstorms, and high wind. There is little doubt that this has caused significant damage to this landmark and there is also little doubt that the owner is aware of this neglect.

In fact, there is ample evidence that it is intentional. This owner has purposely stripped away architectural ornament from the building, and allowed the exterior, sidewalk, and sidewalk shed to remain in deplorable condition. This is all in an apparent attempt to either see the building damaged or destroyed, make conditions so miserable for neighbors that they will accept various proposed illegal uses in the building, or both. I urge the Landmarks Preservation Commission, in the strongest of terms, not to be complicit in this effort.

The LPC should and must take immediate action in order to hold the owner accountable and prevent any further deterioration of and damage to this landmark.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman
Executive Director