COUNCIL OF CHELSEA BLOCK ASSOCIATIONS

October 30, 2026

Lisa Kersavage, Chair & Commissioners
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
253 Broadway, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Request for Reconsideration and Landmark Designation of
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 229–231 West 14th Street

Dear Chair Kersavage & Commissioners:

On behalf of the Council of Chelsea Block Associations, Inc. (CCBA), representing 18 block and tenant associations throughout Chelsea, Manhattan, I am writing to express our strong support for landmark designation of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church at 229–231 West 14th Street.

We join Manhattan Community Board 4, Council Member Carl Wilson, Village Preservation, SAVE Chelsea, and other preservation advocates in urging the Landmarks Preservation Commission to reconsider its earlier determination and advance this historically, architecturally, and culturally significant property toward landmark designation.

Founded in 1902, Our Lady of Guadalupe was New York City's first church established to serve a Spanish-speaking congregation. For generations, it served as a spiritual and cultural center for Spanish-speaking immigrants and their descendants. It remains an important surviving link to Little Spain, the vibrant Spanish immigrant community that once flourished along West 14th Street, and an enduring part of Chelsea's history.

The property incorporates two adjoining rowhouses dating to approximately 1850, formerly owned by the Delmonico family. Its distinctive Spanish Baroque facade, added in 1921, gives the church a unique architectural character and reflects its cultural heritage. The building's significance extends beyond its architecture: it represents an important chapter in the history of Hispanic and Latino New Yorkers whose contributions deserve greater recognition in the city's historic preservation efforts.

CCBA urges that the case for preservation is particularly compelling given the relative scarcity of designated New York City landmarks that recognize Hispanic and Latino history. Preserving Our Lady of Guadalupe would help ensure that this important history remains visible and valued as Chelsea and the city continue to evolve.

The prospect of a sale makes timely action especially important. We recognize the financial challenges facing the Archdiocese of New York, but the potential loss of this property would be an irreplaceable blow to Chelsea's architectural and cultural heritage. Landmark designation could protect the building's historic fabric while leaving open the possibility of a thoughtful future use that respects its significance.

As a coalition representing neighborhood associations across Chelsea, we believe that preserving the buildings and cultural institutions that tell our neighborhood's story is essential to maintaining its identity, diversity, and sense of place. CCBA therefore endorses Community Board 4's renewed request that the Commission reconsider its earlier determination and calendar Our Lady of Guadalupe Church for designation without delay.

Thank you for your consideration and for your work to protect New York City's historic and cultural resources.

Sincerely,

Susan Palmer Marshall
President
Council of Chelsea Block Associations, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Zohran Mamdani, Mayor of the City of New York
The Honorable Carl Wilson, NYC Council Member, District 3
Stacie Johnson, District Manager, Manhattan Community Board 4
Debbie Martin, President, SAVE Chelsea
Andrew Berman, Executive Director, Village Preservation