



THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS



October 13, 2021

Mayor Bill de Blasio
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Sarah Carroll, Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

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

VIA E-MAIL

Re: 44-54 Ninth Avenue/351-55 West 14th Streets, Manhattan

Dear Mayor de Blasio, Chair Carroll and Commissioner La Rocca,

To follow up on our prior letters regarding these nine landmarked buildings, we ask that you please produce the formal report, if any, from the Department of Buildings that warns of the potential collapse of all of the above nine landmarked buildings, to which threats were discovered on or about September 8, 2021.

Given the pending demolition, the City's stewards of the Landmarks Law must be informed of official documents that support the demolition. We don't even know whether a formal report was written. Moreover, we have been informed that workers were in the buildings over the weekend eating lunch, and have personally witnessed that the buildings have been left unlocked and accessible to the public, which makes us wonder how great the threat to safety really is.

We have been told that demolition by hand is planned for this week and will be paid for by the developer. It is essential that any demolition be done by hand by preservation professionals, and should be paid for by the developer. However, we question and object to **any** demolition before questions are answered. Official documentation supporting the need for demolition to maintain safety should first be provided with time to review and respond to such information.

Please share with us as soon as possible the official documentation that called for immediate demolition of all nine landmarked buildings, and the lack of viability of alternative means for safely securing the buildings. We would appreciate your prompt response to this very serious matter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lorna Nowvé, Interim Executive Director
Historic Districts Council



Andrew Berman, Executive Director
Village Preservation

cc: Corey Johnson, City Council Speaker
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer
State Senator Brad Hoylman
Assemblymember Deborah Glick
Community Board 4, Manhattan
Community Board 2, Manhattan
New York Landmarks Conservancy
Save Chelsea