May 9, 2022

Hon. Eric Adams
Mayor, City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Sarah Carroll
Chair, NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

RE: New York Eye and Ear Infirmary at 218 Second Avenue/216-222 Second Avenue/301-309 East 13th Street

Dear Mayor Adams and Chair Carroll,

We are writing to urge the Landmark Preservation Commission to designate the New York Ear and Eye Infirmary of Mount Sinai at 218 Second Avenue/216-222 Second Avenue/301-309 East 13th Street, as a New York City Landmark. The building is a part of our city's landscape which signifies the rich and deep culture of the East Village and deserves to be formally recognized as such.

The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary was founded in 1820 as the earliest specialized hospital in the Western Hemisphere, where highly advanced experimental surgeries were performed for the first time in America. Today, the Infirmary continues to treat New Yorkers across the city for diseases of the eyes, ears, nose, and throat, and remains one of the world's leading treatment facilities.

In 1856, the Infirmary was moved to the northeast corner of Second Avenue and Thirteenth Street, into a building designed by architects Mettam & Burke, who also designed the former home of the New-York Historical Society, at the southeast corner of Second Avenue and Eleventh Street. The buildings designed by Mettam & Burke are reminiscent of Cooper Union, another Italianate brownstone in the East Village that was one of the first designated New York City Landmarks. The Infirmary is designed in the style of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture, a prominent style of the mid to late 19th Century, featuring heavy rock-faced stone, round masonry arches, transom windows, and clustered blind arches.

The architecture of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary provides an insight to the history of the city and is an important part of art history as a whole. It contributes to New York City as a mecca of art

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and history and is significant to our architectural and cultural heritage. It is with our full support that the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary be recognized as a New York City Landmark.

Sincerely,

Harvey Epstein
Assembly Member
District 74

Brad Hoylman
Senator
District 27

Cc:
Rep. Carolyn Maloney
Council Member Carlina Rivera
Andrew Berman, Executive Director, Village Preservation
Richard D. Moses, President, Lower East Side Preservation Initiative
Laure Sewell, Executive Director, East Village Community Coalition
Frampton Tolbert, Executive Director, Historic District Council

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