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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE

NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

www.manhattancb2.org

P: 212-979-2272 F: 212-254-5102 E: info@manhattancb2.org

Greenwich Village ♦ Little Italy ♦ SoHo ♦ NoHo ♦ Hudson Square ♦ Chinatown ♦ Gansevoort Market

September 21, 2026

Honorable Zohran Kwame Mamdani
Mayor
City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Honorable Tricia Shimamura
Commissioner
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation
The Arsenal, 830 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10065

**RE: Tony Dapolito Recreation Center at 1 Clarkson Street, New York, NY 10014,
located in the Greenwich Village Historic District Extension II**

Honorable Mayor Mamdani and Honorable Commissioner Shimamura:

We write to reiterate Manhattan Community Board 2's **opposition to the Parks Department's plan to demolish the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center**. Manhattan Community Board 2's adopted position respectfully asks that New York City "restore the Dapolito Center in accordance with Landmarks Law and ensure the building remains under city ownership and devoted to a civic purpose."¹ **Our position has not changed. This building *can* and *should* be restored, not demolished.**

This historic building lies within the **Greenwich Village Historic District Extension II**, whose **originally proposed boundaries were altered specifically to include the Dapolito Center; the Historic District** was designated by the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission a little over **16 years ago** on June 22, 2010.

The loss of this building would have an impact far greater than the destruction of one historically significant building: **the demolition of the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center would violate the Landmarks Preservations Commission's own fundamental principle that demolition by neglect is wrong** by setting forth:

- **a precedent signaling that neglect is an acceptable practice** in general and
- that **neglect is an acceptable practice when the property owner is the City.**

¹ September 2024 Manhattan Community Board resolution on the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center

Furthermore, CB2 supports recreational facilities in the planned, 100% affordable-housing development at 388 Hudson Street²; however, that approval in **no way constitutes approval of demolition of the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center.**

Manhattan Community Board 2 reiterates its adopted position from September 2024 that **the City of New York should:**

- **“restore the Dapolito Center in accordance with Landmarks Law, and”**
- **“ensure that the [Dapolito Center] building remains under City ownership, and”**
- **“ensure that the [Dapolito Center] building [be] devoted to a civic purpose.”³**

Respectfully,



Valerie De La Rosa
Chair, Community Board 2 Manhattan



Chenault Spence
Chair, CB2M Land Use and Public Aesthetics
Committee

cc: Hon. Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York
Hon. Zohran Kwame Mamdani, Mayor of the City of New York
Hon. Dean Fuleihan, First Deputy Mayor, City of New York
Hon. Julia Karson, Deputy Mayor for Operations, City of New York
Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Manhattan Borough President, City of New York
Hon. Lisa Kerservage, Commissioner and Chair, Landmarks Preservation Commission
Hon. Christopher Marte, Councilmember, District 1, New York City Council
Hon. Harvey Epstein, Councilmember, District 2, New York City Council
Hon. Carl Wilson, Councilmember, District 3, New York City Council
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, State Senator, NYS Senate 27th District
Hon. Deborah Glick, State Assemblymember, NYS Assembly, 66th District
Hon. Erik Bottcher, State Senator, NYS Senate, 47th District
Hon. Grace Lee, State Assemblymember, NYS Assembly, 65th District
Hon. Dan Goldman, U.S. Representative, 10th District
Andrew Berman, Executive Director, Village Preservation

² July 2024 Manhattan Community Board resolution on 388 Hudson

³ September 2024 Manhattan Community Board resolution on the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center

Susan Kent, Chair
Valerie De La Rosa, First Vice Chair
Eugene Yoo, Second Vice Chair



Antony Wong, Treasurer
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Brian Pape, Assistant Secretary

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September 20, 2024

Hon. Susan Donoghue
Commissioner
NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
The Arsenal
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10065

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

Honorable Commissioner Donoghue and Chair Carroll:

At its Full Board meeting on September 19, 2024, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

A resolution by Community Board 2 Manhattan expressing opposition to the demolition of the Dapolito Center.

Whereas:

A. The Dapolito Center building, constructed in 1908 and modified over the years, is of architectural and historic importance and is a building contributing to the historic and cultural significance of the Greenwich Village Historic District Extension II; and

B. The Landmarks Law affords the building considerable protection from unsuitable alteration and demolition, including “demolition by neglect”; and

C. At the creation of the Greenwich Village Historic District Extension II, the originally proposed boundary of the district was altered in order to include the Center; and

D. The building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places; and

E. Together with the adjacent library building, the notable Keith Herring mural on the west wall, the outdoor swimming pool, and the James J. Walker Park, the block is a welcome open area serving a variety of recreational purposes in Greenwich Village and is across the street from St. Luke's Place, one of the best-preserved blocks of row houses in the city; and

F. The building has been closed for 5 years and through the time of the closure and until recently it was understood by the community, based on information from the City and presentations to both the Parks and Landmarks Committees of CB2, that renovations would be carried out and the building would reopen as a recreation center; and

G. At a meeting of Community Board 2 July 10, 2024, of Land Use and Parks Committees concerning a new affordable housing building proposed for the block immediately south of the Center, a Parks Department representative, brought forward a proposal for recreation facilities in that building and that demolition of the Center was under consideration; and

H. A resolution was subsequently passed by the Board endorsing the use of certain parts of the apartment building for community recreational purposes and this affirmation was grossly misrepresented by the Parks Department as endorsing the demolition of the Dapolito Center; and

I. The Parks Commissioner later appeared in an onsite television interview explaining the demolition, despite CB2 never supporting demolition; and

J. The CB2 Board has had no further communication from the Parks Department since the meeting and there are no reports or engineering studies to support the necessity for demolition in hand; and

K. The CB2 Landmarks Committee, through which any request for approval of alteration or demolition of a building in a landmark district must pass, has had no notification; and

L. Concern has been expressed by members of the community, organizations concerned with historic preservation, elected officials, and members of the CB2 Board about the proposed demolition; and

Therefore be it resolved that Community Board 2 Manhattan recommends that New York City restore the Dapolito Center in accordance with Landmarks Law and ensure the building remain under city ownership and devoted to a civic purpose.

Vote: Passed, with 22 in favor, 5 opposed (R. Caccappolo, A. Fernandez, D. Gruber, R. Kessler, F. Sigel), 3 abstaining (R. Sanz, E. Siegel, E. Smith), and no recusals.

We respectfully request that your agency take action consistent with the positions expressed in the above.

Sincerely,



Susan Kent, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Chenault Spence, Chair
Landmarks & Public Aesthetics Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

SK/fa

cc: Hon. Daniel Goldman, U.S. Representative, 10th District
Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York
Hon. Brad Lander, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Adrienne Adams, NYC Council Speaker
Hon. Christopher Marte, NYC Council, 1st District
Hon. Carlina Rivera, NYC Council, 2nd District
Hon. Erik Bottcher, NYC Council, 3rd District
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NY State Senate, 27th District
Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, NY State Senate, 47th District
Hon. Grace Lee, State Assembly, 65th District
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NY State Assembly, 66th District
Gregory Cala, Community & Intergovernmental Associate