



CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

January 3, 1962

Mr. Ed Gold
President
Mr. Jim Lanigan
Mrs. Carol Greitzer
District Leaders
First A. D. South
Village Independent Democrats
224 West 4th Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your
congratulatory telegram, on my election
as Comptroller of The City of New York.

I deeply appreciate your thought-
fulness, and this note is a belated one
only because I took a vacation after the
election.

Sincerely,

Abraham Beame



CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK 7, N.Y.

Correspondence 6v

JULIUS C. C. EDELSTEIN
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR

March 22, 1962

Mr. Charles Miller
Village Independent Democrats
224 West 4th Street
New York 14, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Miller:

I herewith return your proposed press statement. I found it very interesting indeed and can take no factual exception to it, in the form in which it now is. It was good to have been in touch with you on this matter.

Please convey my respects to my fellow club members including not only Mr. Geller but Jim Lanigan, Sara Shoenkopf and such others in the VID who would respond to the title of friend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julius C.C. Edelstein", written over a horizontal line.

Julius C.C. Edelstein

May 21, 1962

Mr. Stanley Geller, President
Village Independent Democrats
224 West 4th Street
New York 14, New York

Dear Stanley:

This is to notify you that I will be a candidate for re-election to the State Committee of the Democratic Party.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sarah Schoenkopf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sarah Schoenkopf
State Committeewoman
1st A.D. South

August 12, 1962

Commissioner Harold Birns
Department of Buildings
Municipal Building --20th
Manhattan 7, New York

Dear Commissioner Birns:

With reference to Mr. Michael Sponer 85 Christopher
Street, Apartment 5C.

Mr. Sponer has contacted us after numerous fruitless
attempts to have your Department inspect and remedy the
dirty, unhealthy and dangerous conditions which have resulted
from the electric work done by the New Power Company.

The walls and floors are being broken and there are
accumulations of dirt as well as exposed electrical wiring.
The present owner, W.R.Cook could not be reached, due to an
unknown address.

We would appreciate your immediate attention to this
matter to correct the existing violations.

Sincerely,

Lester Evens
Law Chairman

LE:erl

cc: Department of Health
cc: Mr. Michael Sponer

FURNISH CFN

TELEGRAM RECEIVED BY TELEPHONE

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WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH CO.

052

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

WHITEHOUSE

E 5Y

AT THE AUGUST 6, 1962 MEMBERSHIP MEETING
OF THE VILLAGE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS THE
FOLLOWING WAS PASSED: VIG URGES IN THE
REORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EQUAL EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITY THAT THE ENFORCEMENT MACHINERY
BE STRENGTHENED IT IS DISTURBED BY REPORTS
THAT THE COMPLAINT AND COMPLIANCE WORK MAY
BE DOWN GRADED WITH MAJOR RELIANCE BEING
PLACED ON VOLUNTARY PLANS FOR PROGRESS, THE
PLANS FOR PROGRESS CAN BE A VALUABLE SUPPLEMENT
TO THE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM BUT MUST NOT BE
PERMITTED TO BECOME A SUBSTITUTE FOR IT.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED BY TELEPHONE

\$ S E

VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE WILL BE MUCH MORE
SUBSTANTIAL IF CONTRACTORS UNDERSTAND
THAT CONTRACTS WILL BE CANCELLED IF YOUR
EXECUTIVE ORDER ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IS
IGNORED

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1962

CONFIRMATION OF TELEGRAM FILED BY TELEPHONE

DATE 46 AUG 13 1150 PED
CHECK (SHEET 1) 112 NL PD 5 EX AR

TEL NO. CHE3 6555

WASHDC

DUB. VILLAGE INDEPENDENT
DEMOCRATS
224 W 4 ST NYC14

DATE 46 AUG 13

CHECK SHEET 2

TEL NO. CHE3 6555

DUB. H

SIGNATURE STANLEY GELLAR

PRESIDENT

VILLAGE INDEPENDENT
DEMOCRATS

224 WEST 4 ST NYC

DUB.

VILLAGE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS
224 West 4th Street
New York 14, N.Y.

February 8, 1962

Honorable Robert F. Wagner
City Hall
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mayor Wagner:

We wish to call your attention to a serious administrative problem that has manifested itself in connection with the proposed New York University Title I Project between Elseecker and Houston Streets.

We refer to the alarming vacuum in authority that has thus far delayed action for nearly two years since Washington Square Village first suggested turning over this site to the University. With no approved plan in the offing, NYU is now six months past its scheduled date for starting construction.

~~Here~~ Here is the situation: NYU was directed by the Board of Estimate, in September 1960, to come up with a plan that would provide 175 middle-income cooperative units for Greenwich Village families who had felt the housing squeeze. NYU's initial plan contained too few apartments and too few bedrooms. Their current plan, developed many months later, includes 175 apartments--but only 53 (30%) have more than one bedroom.

Fortunately, the Housing and Redevelopment Board has rejected this plan for its failure to provide enough family-sized units, apparently concurring with our definition that a family consists, generally, of parents and at least one child--thereby necessitating a majority of two and three (and hopefully, four) bedroom apartments. (NYU has sought to justify 115 one-bedroom units on the ground that some contained dining alcoves convertible to extra sleeping space. While this might be a temporary solution for rental housing, it is hardly suitable for a co-op, where more permanent sleeping arrangements are desired.)

Housing & Redevelopment has assured us that it will not approve any NYU plan that fails to comply with the Board of Estimate directive. Yet apparently Housing & Redevelopment can do no more than reject unsound plans and send them back to NYU. The Board does not seem to have the authority to tell this sponsor to stop wasting time and to bring back, by such-and-such date, a plan that complies with the directive. This vacuum in authority

means that a sponsor can theoretically go on for years with proposals that fall short, perhaps hoping to effect an eventual compromise. In some cases, sponsors may deliberately seek a delay because they are not ready to proceed with construction.

Where City and Federal subsidies are concerned, we believe a chosen sponsor has an obligation to act expeditiously, or else be declared in default. When the transfer to NYU was first broached, our club suggested that the City throw open the site to competitive bidding, as was done in the Riverside-Amsterdam project. We were appalled that Washington Square Village could decide it would sell to NYU or nobody. Furthermore, in view of NYU's earlier Title I acquisition (one of the most desirable pieces of real estate in the city, fronting on Washington Square Park), and the University's subsequent demolition of a well-maintained high-rise apartment building that has yet to be replaced, we could not take seriously NYU's plea that it needed housing. We felt NYU should have preserved the existing apartment house and converted it to University use as vacancies occurred.

We understand that the original sponsor still holds title to this land. We suggest that your legal staff consider whether a breach of contract now exists. Should the City decide it still wants to deal with NYU, we urge that the Board of Estimate demand an immediate plan for 175 apartments, with the majority allotted to multi-bedroom units. If necessary, NYU must be made to give up space consigned to University use in order to provide this housing for the public. We urge further, that time limits be written into all future contracts, where City subsidies are involved, to avoid similar delays.

Sincerely yours,

Carol Greitzer

James S. Lanigan
DEMOCRATIC DISTRICT LEADERS
1st A.D. South

Stanley Geller
PRESIDENT
VILLAGE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

cc:

Honorable Edward R. Dudley
President, Borough of Manhattan

Mr. Milton Mollen
Chairman, Housing & Redevelopment Board

Mr. James Felt
Chairman, City Planning Commission