

February 23, 2024

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

Dear Chair Carroll:

We are writing to express our concern regarding the destruction of 14 Gay Street, a historic building within our districts, and the apparent lack of accountability for the negligence exhibited by the contractor responsible for its destruction, or the landlord, Lionel Nazarian, who hired this contractor.

14 Gay Street held significant historical value for our community. Unfortunately, due to the negligence of the contractor hired by the property owner, a supporting wall was illegally removed which compromised the integrity of the building causing the Department of Buildings (DOB) to issue a demolition order.

To date, neither the contractor nor the landlord have been held accountable for this negligence. This incident has raised serious questions about the accountability mechanisms in place by the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) and the steps taken to ensure that property owners are held responsible for the actions of their hired contractors. It is crucial for the integrity of our community and the preservation of our historic assets that city agencies reassess the accountability of those involved.

Moreover, we understand that a considerable portion of the materials from the demolished building cannot be salvaged for reuse. This raises concerns about the environmental impact and the loss of valuable historic elements that could have contributed to the construction of a new building. We would appreciate it if LPC could provide a detailed explanation of why these materials were deemed unusable and what efforts were made to salvage any components that could contribute to a new structure. Additionally, we would like to request information on any salvageable materials and their potential reuse in the construction of a new building.

We would like the City to revisit its decision not to hold the property owner accountable for the negligence of their contractor, and to provide transparent insights into the fate of the materials from the demolished building. Preserving our historic assets is a collective

responsibility, and we believe that ensuring this matter is handled correctly will contribute to the overall well-being and cultural richness of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this vital matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



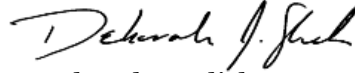
Erik Bottcher
Council Member, District 3



Mark Levine
Manhattan Borough President



Brian Kavanagh
State Senator, District 27 State



Deborah J. Glick
Assembly Member, District 66