



June 13, 2025

Hon. Adrienne E. Adams, City Council Speaker
165-38A Baisley Blvd., 2nd Floor
Jamaica, NY 11434

Hon. Erik Bottcher, City Councilmember
224 West 30th St, Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001

Hon. Justin Brannan, City Councilmember
Chair, Committee on Finance
8203 3rd Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11209

Hon. Shekar Krishnan, City Councilmember
Chair, Committee on Parks and Recreation
37-32 75th Street, 1st Floor
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Re: Budget Allocation for the Restoration of the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center (1 Clarkson Street, Manhattan)

Dear Councilmembers Adams, Bottcher, Brannan, and Krishnan:

We write regarding the fate and status of the landmarked Tony Dapolito Recreation Center at 1 Clarkson Street, Manhattan. We strongly urge the City Council not to approve use of the \$52 million the Mayor has proposed in the 2026 budget for demolition of the Center, as the Mayor is seeking. Instead, we strongly urge you to earmark that money in the budget for repairing and upgrading the Center only, and to supplement that with additional funds as needed to ensure the Center's rehabilitation and return to public use. Passage of a budget with \$52 million for demolition of the building will allow the Mayor and

the Parks Department to proceed with demolition plans if they choose, and will not afford the City Council any opportunity to stop such plans.

We also urge that there be no further delay in pursuing the repair and restoration of the building. The public and local community board have spoken loudly and clearly of their opposition to any plan that would involve demolition, and their desire to see the building restored and re-opened. Continued delay after the building has been empty and lacked needed repairs for over five years means conditions at the structure will only worsen, making necessary repairs that much more challenging to achieve.

Finally, as an historically significant building which was very intentionally landmarked by the City in 2010, there is no excuse for leaving the building in this state of disrepair and not pursuing a complete renovation and upgrade as needed. If this were private property, we would expect the City to pressure the owner of such a landmarked building to make necessary and long-overdue repairs to the structure. While conversations can and should continue about the best use for that space, any plan involving demolition of this landmarked building should be off the table. It's deeply troubling that such an option was even being considered by a New York City agency, or by anyone in government.

Sincerely,



Andrew Berman
Executive Director
Village Preservation



Jay DiLorenzo
President
Preservation League of NYS



Peg Breen
President
NY Landmarks Conservancy



Sean Khorsandi
Executive Director
Landmark West!



Claudette Brady
Executive Director
Save Harlem Now!



Nuha Ansari
Executive Director
Friends of the Upper East Side

Cc: Landmarks Preservation Commission Chair Sarah Carroll
NYC Parks Commissioner Iris Rodriguez-Rosa
Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine
Manhattan Community Board 2 Chair Valerie De La Rosa