



December 15, 2025

Assemblymember Zohran Mamdani
New York City Mayor-Elect
24-08 32nd Street, Suite 1002A
Astoria, NY 11102

Dear Mayor-Elect Mamdani:

As you prepare to govern New York City, we write in regard to the pressing issue of the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center, located at 1 Clarkson Street in the West Village.

As you may know, the current mayoral administration has put forth a plan for the future of the site that is not in line with local stakeholders, Manhattan Community Board 2, and many of the elected officials representing the West Village, specifically with regards to the building's facade. It is our strong belief that the renovation of the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center must preserve the facade of the current building to the maximum extent possible.

Earlier this year, the Parks Department indicated that it would engage a consultant to explore the feasibility of incorporating the existing structure into a new design, including options for preserving the facade. However, at the August 6, 2025, meeting of the Manhattan Community Board 2 Parks and Waterfront Committee, Parks representatives stated that their intention is to remove the building "as it stands," with only the possibility of retaining select "elements" of the facade.

We know many community members feel deeply that the entire structure should be preserved, however, given the serious structural deficiencies, we may need to be open to allowing for a great portion of the Center to be reconstructed. It should be noted that some areas of the current facility are not ADA compliant and many sections lack recreation space that is accessible and up to code. It is important that those limitations are acknowledged as we work together toward a solution that honors the connection this community has with the Center.

As you may know, the Dapolito Recreation Center was built in stages, first in 1906-08 as an early public bathhouse for poor and largely immigrant New Yorkers and then expanded into a more comprehensive public recreation center in 1922 and 1929. In 2003, the structure—which had for nearly a century served a broad cross section of New Yorkers, especially those of limited means—was renamed for beloved community leader Tony Dapolito, who had distinguished himself from leading the community in battles against Robert Moses, among many other distinctions in his public service career.



This historic structure holds so much meaning in our community, and a loss of this façade would be received by many as an erasure of history for the many generations that have utilized this space. I urge your administration to commit to preserving the façade structure to the maximum extent possible so it can be enjoyed by generations to come.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working collaboratively with you and your administration on this project. If you or your staff have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us directly, or via John Blasco in Congressman Dan Goldman's office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Goldman".

Dan Goldman
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Kavanagh".

Brian Kavanagh
State Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah J. Glick".

Deborah J. Glick
State Assemblymember