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**THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**
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Assemblymember Zohran Mamdani
NYC Mayor-Elect
24-08 32nd Street
Suite 1002A
Astoria, NY 11102

Dear Mayor-elect Mamdani,

Congratulations on your victory. I look forward to working with you and your administration in the months and years ahead as we collectively strive to strengthen our city and deliver for New Yorkers.

I am writing regarding the future of the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center in the West Village.

As your team reviews the current administration's proposals for this site and charts its own path forward for recreation facilities at this location and along the Clarkson Street corridor, I want to be clear: any new recreation center at this location must, at a minimum, retain the visible façade of the current building.

Our community fully recognizes that the needs of residents have grown. Families, seniors, and young people on the West Side deserve access to a state-of-the-art, spacious, and affordable public recreation center that does not require thousands of dollars in private gym memberships. High-quality public recreation space is vital to public health, social connection, and equity, particularly in a city where affordability is increasingly out of reach.

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 façade. However, at the August 6, 2025 meeting of the 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 façade.

That approach is not acceptable. A viable and forward-looking plan must include the preservation of the building’s visible façade, fully integrated into a revitalized, twenty-first-century recreation facility that meets the evolving needs of the community.

The Adams administration has proposed significant investment in this corridor, including expanded recreation space, improved pool facilities, the redesign of the eastern portion of J.J. Walker Park, and long-overdue upgrades. These enhancements are welcome and important. However, the approach to the Dapolito site has lacked the creativity and responsiveness that this neighborhood deserves, especially given how other historic structures across the city have been successfully integrated into modern civic projects.

This community should not be forced into a false choice between preservation and progress.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to working collaboratively with you and your administration on a plan that serves the public, honors the past, and meets the needs of the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erik Bottcher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Erik Bottcher
New York City Council Member
District 3