

CENTRAL VILLAGE BLOCK ASSOCIATION

The Central Village Block Association is a forum for residents of Barrow, Jones, Carroll, Leroy, Blenheim, West 4th Streets & Sheridan Square.

July 22, 2025

Mayor Eric Adams
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

First Deputy Mayor Randy Mastro
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Restoration and Reopening of the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center, 1 Clarkson Street, Manhattan

Dear Mayor Adams and First Deputy Mayor Mastro:

As community and preservation organizations representing thousands of residents of Lower Manhattan and New Yorkers from across the five boroughs, we write to strongly urge you to ensure that the landmarked and much-beloved Tony Dapolito Recreation Center, now closed for more than five years, is restored, modernized, and reopened. We have been deeply dismayed by the Parks Department's ongoing effort to demolish the building.

Community support for restoring and reopening the existing Tony Dapolito Recreation Center has been overwhelming and consistent. While this community supports creating new supplemental indoor public recreation facilities in 388 Hudson Street, there is and always has been a clearly stated desire to see the existing Center repaired and reopened. That has manifested in overwhelming sentiment expressed at Community Board meetings, [a community board resolution overwhelmingly opposing demolition and calling for restoration](#), nearly

40,000 letters sent by nearly 5,000 people to various public officials calling for the Center to be restored and reopened, and multiple letters from more than 20 downtown community groups and preservation organizations from across New York City and State calling for the same. Additionally, more than 200 people attended a [rally on June 1](#) of this year calling for restoration and reopening of the Center, and Councilmember Bottcher has called for moving ahead with a process for designing a reimagined Tony Dapolito Center which would “retain, at minimum, the existing facades of the building, while also exploring new uses that allow for the preservation of as much of the building’s historic interior as feasible,” and that “preservation should be a foundational component of any future proposal.”

The Center’s deteriorated condition is a direct result of deferred maintenance and a failure to undertake needed repairs, upgrades, and restorations. We urge you to call upon the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to pursue a failure to maintain violation against the Parks Department to compel it to begin the process of repairing the building, as the LPC has [already been called upon to do](#). Disturbingly, they have thus far refused to do so.

We urge you to commit to repairing, modernizing, and reopening the facility, and to putting forward a plan to do so as soon as possible. None of the issues with the building are beyond the scope of repair, and none of the updates needed are incompatible with continued use of the building for recreational purposes, even if some spaces may no longer be used for the same purposes that they have in the building’s most recent incarnation. A building is needed on this site to serve the adjacent outdoor swimming pool, and even with a new recreational facility at 388 Hudson Street, the need for a public recreation center here remains. Aside from the deep connections the Lower Manhattan community and a wide array of New Yorkers feel to this building and the need for public recreational facilities which it could serve, this structure was quite intentionally landmarked in 2010 as part of the Greenwich Village Historic District Extension II, recognizing its importance to the history of our city. To allow it to be destroyed rather than repaired and reopened would be incredibly damaging to the regulations which exist to preserve and protect all our city’s recognized historic properties.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Andrew Berman
Executive Director
Village Preservation



Jay DiLorenzo
President
Preservation League of NYS



Keri Butler
Interim President
Municipal Art Society (MAS)



Peg Breen
President
NY Landmarks Conservancy



Frampton Tolbert
Executive Director
Historic Districts Council



Sean Khorsandi
Executive Director
Landmark West!



Nuha Ansari
Executive Director
Friends of the Upper East Side
Historic Districts



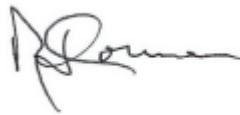
Lo van der Valk
President
Carnegie Hill Neighbors



Claudette Brady
Executive Director
Save Harlem Now!



Sommer Omar
Founder
The Coalition to Save the Public
Recreation Center Downtown



Richard Corman
President
Downtown Independent
Democrats



Raymond Cline
President
Village Reform Democratic Club



Sean Sweeney
Director
SoHo Alliance



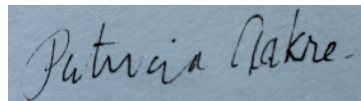
Mark Fielder
President
Bleecker Area Merchants
Residents Association (BAMRA)



David Mulkins
President
Bowery Alliance of Neighbors



Micki McGee
Founding Member
South Village Neighbors



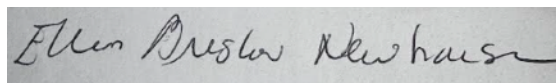
Patricia Aakre
Board Member
Friends of Finn Square



Pat Bates
Founding Member
Team Min



Kenny Wind
President
Grand Street Democrats



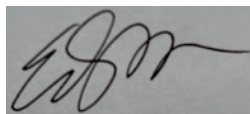
Ellen Breslow Newhouse
Founder
The Wednesday Group



Kim Beck
Co-Founder
Downtown Nasty Women
Social Group



Irene Kaufman
Co-President
Village Independent Democrats



Erin Quinn Purcell
President
Westbeth Artists Residents
Council

Augustine Hope
President
West Village Residents
Association

Kathryn Arntzen
President
Central Village Block
Association

Steve Gould
Founding Member
Christopher Street
Merchants Block
Association

Marguerite Martin
President and Co-Chair
West 12th St. Block
Association

Maria Leao
Executive Director
Village Kids NYC

Executive Committee
Chelsea Reform
Democratic Club