



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER
BRAD LANDER

December 23, 2025

Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani
Delivered electronically

Re: Tony Dapolito Recreation Center

Dear Mayor-elect Mamdani,

As part of our transition recommendations to your incoming administration, I write to urge you to immediately halt the Adams Administration's proposed demolition of the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center at 1 Clarkson Street upon taking office, and instead to work closely with the West Village community to preserve, renovate, and revive this beloved community institution.

I was encouraged by your remarks this fall, recognizing the promise to repair the facility that was made to the community when the Center was closed in 2021, and committing to do your best to fulfill that promise.

As you know, the Center is a cherished neighborhood institution, founded in 1908, with a one-of-a-kind Keith Haring mural, that has served not only West Village families but also New Yorkers from across the five boroughs for generations. There is widespread agreement that the site must be preserved as a New York City park. However, the Adams Administration nixed prior commitments and indicated that it intended to demolish the facility, despite the overwhelming opposition of community members.

Your Administration has the opportunity to reverse this betrayal of a promise to the West Village community. I urge you to instruct the Parks Department not to move forward with the demolition of the facility, and instead to work closely with the community on a plan to preserve as much of the existing historic facility – exterior and interior – as feasible, as part of a comprehensive plan to restore and expand recreational offerings.

While the restoration and reopening of the building will have a significant cost, there are resources for that work. The Parks Department recently affirmed that approximately \$120 million has been allocated for the project. The [NYC Capital Projects Dashboard](#) (whose creation I legislated as a City Councilmember, and helped oversee as Comptroller) reflects that over \$100 million has been allocated but remains unspent.

Like West Village community members, I am excited about the supplemental recreational facilities planned nearby at 388 Hudson, as part of the 100% affordable housing development there. However, those new facilities do not justify the demolition of the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center, a facility with deep roots and enduring significance to the neighborhood.

As we work aggressively to develop new housing to make our city more affordable, an agenda we deeply share, we must also work to preserve treasured community institutions that serve the residents of our

neighborhoods, both long-time and newer.

With thanks for your consideration, and great enthusiasm for your administration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Lander", with a stylized, cursive script.

Brad Lander
New York City Comptroller

CC:
NYC Parks Commissioner Iris Rodriguez-Rosa
Manhattan Borough Parks Commissioner Tricia Shimamura