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COUNCIL MEMBER

THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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June 27, 2025

Mayor Eric Adams
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Commissioner Iris Rodriguez-Rosa
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Dear Mayor Adams and Commissioner Rodriguez-Rosa,

I am writing to follow up on the letter my colleagues and I sent earlier this month regarding the future of the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center at 1 Clarkson Street.

As stated in that letter, the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center is a deeply cherished neighborhood institution—one that holds great significance for generations of West Village residents. I understand that NYC Parks has expressed a desire to significantly expand recreational opportunities at the site in the years ahead—a goal I support—and I welcome thoughtful investment in its future.

While I acknowledge the City's public commitment to keeping this site entirely dedicated to NYC Parks use and preserving the Keith Haring mural—I want to underscore several critical concerns. The Parks Department must begin the public process for reimagining the new and restored Tony Dapolito Center as soon as possible, and to engage the community meaningfully in shaping its future. As a baseline, any design proposals should 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. Additionally, the center's name—honoring Tony Dapolito and his extraordinary legacy of public service—must remain at the current site.

This preservation should be a foundational component of any future proposal. It is essential that no funds be allocated or expended on demolition until a detailed proposal is presented and thoroughly vetted by the community.

I am committed to working in good faith with your administration and NYC Parks to create a path forward that strengthens recreational offerings while honoring our neighborhood's identity and architectural legacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Erik Bottcher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Erik Bottcher
Council Member, District 3