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THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HARVEY EPSTEIN
COUNCIL MEMBER, 2ND DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

Dear Mayor Mamdani,

I write to express my strong concerns about the status of 34 1/2 East 12th Street, and to request a meeting with myself and key community stakeholders to discuss its condition and future.

This city-owned building, built in 1855 as the first school for girls in New York City, was landmarked in 1988 due to its extreme significance to New York City history. It has for decades served as the headquarters of the Police Athletic League.

Unfortunately, it has also for about two decades been in a state of disrepair, with scaffolding up around it, little work done, little sign of any activity or occupancy, and what appears to be deteriorating conditions. The building has become an eyesore, and its condition has lent itself to various sanitation, public safety, and quality of life concerns and complaints, as well as worries that this historically significant landmarked structure is not being maintained in the way that the law requires, which could result in irreversible loss or damage.

Our first and most immediate concern is to see the building stabilized, repaired, and brought back to the condition that it should be in. We do, however, also believe that it is worth having a conversation about plans for the buildings' use and future. Given the lack of active use here for years and the inability to maintain and repair the building under the current circumstances, it seems worth considering whether other uses for the building might be better suited to its unique qualities as a great piece of New York City history, as well as the obligation to keep it well maintained. This building is an extremely important public asset, and we want to see it continue to be used in a way which serves the public and honors its history.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and others to have this conversation and work towards a common goal of seeing 34 1/2 East 12th Street finally restored and utilized in a way that best serves the people of New York.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harvey Epstein", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Harvey Epstein, City Council Member, District 2