NYC Parks

**Tricia Shimamura**
Commissioner

**City of New York**
**Parks & Recreation**
The Arsenal
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New York, NY 10065
nyc.gov/parks

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Village Preservation
232 East 11th Street
New York, NY 10003

Cc: Coalition to Save the Public Recreation Center Downtown (SPRCD)

Dear Village Preservation and the Coalition to Save the Public Recreation Center Downtown,

Thank you for your continued dialogue on the state of recreation in the West Village and for your August 11th letter sharing your thoughts on the path forward for recreation in the neighborhood.

We are excited to invest $164 million in the vision for the Clarkson Street Corridor, which will bring state-of-the-art, spacious, affordable, and accessible public recreation to the neighborhood, including indoor and outdoor swimming, year-round recreation spaces and public art.

In collaboration with our partners at the NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC), the project at the Tony Dapolito site will include a new and accessible aquatics center, encompassing an outdoor pool, a pool house and restoration of the Keith Haring mural in consultation with the Haring Foundation. Once DDC procures the design team, the design process will begin with a community input meeting.

As highlighted in past conversations with Manhattan Community Board 2 and other community conversations, unfortunately, the existing Tony Dapolito Recreation Center building is extensively structurally compromised. Over multiple rounds of investigative probes and years of investigation, each round revealed additional structural issues.

Our priority is to provide high-quality, affordable recreation opportunities to the community and provide facilities that allow for New Yorkers of all abilities to stay active. Due to its deteriorated condition, structural layout, and unique site constraints, it is not feasible to renovate the building and comply with modern accessibility standards and building codes without further reducing essential and already undersized programming space for the community. This would include dramatically reducing the inadequately sized indoor pool, gym, fitness, and multipurpose rooms.

While the aforementioned engineering site investigations indicate the Tony Dapolito Building façade is in poor condition, we remain committed to continuing to investigate its condition and future possibilities. A feasibility study on the façade will provide additional technical information, and we are working with DDC to procure specialists for the study. We will share the findings with the community.

Because the future outdoor aquatics complex will be located within a historic district, we will follow all regulatory review requirements, including presenting the future proposal to the Landmarks Preservation Commission and Manhattan Community Board 2.

At 388 Hudson Street, we are partnering with the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development to deliver an affordable housing and recreation mixed-use development, which was sited with support from Manhattan Community Board 2. The RFP process is complete, and a development team is on board.

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We look forward to keeping the community updated as the projects within the Clarkson Street Corridor progress, and we are excited to welcome you to the new outdoor aquatics center and the future recreation center at 388 Hudson Street.

Sincerely,



Tricia Shimamura

Commissioner