



May 15, 2025

Mayor Eric Adams
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Sue Donaghue, Commissioner
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation
830 Fifth Ave
New York, NY, 10065

City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams
165-38A Baisley Blvd., 2nd Floor
Jamaica, NY 11434

City Council Parks Committee Chair Shekar Krishnan
37-32 75th Street, 1st Floor
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

City Council Finance Committee Chair Justin Brannan
8203 3rd Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11209

City Council Landmarks Subcommittee Chair
Kamillah Hanks
130 Stuyvesant Place 6th Floor, Room 602
Staten Island, NY 10301

City Councilmember Erik Bottcher, 3rd District
224 West 30th St, Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001

Community Board 2, Manhattan Chair
Valerie De La Rosa
3 Washington Square Village, #1A
New York, NY 10012

Re: Funding to Restore the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center, 1 Clarkson Street, Manhattan

Dear Mayor Adams, Commissioner Donoghue, Councilmembers Adams, Krishnan, Brannan, Hanks, and Bottcher, and Chair De La Rosa:

We write to urge that the \$51.8 million pledged by Mayor Adams in the 2026 budget be combined with additional funding from the City Council to repair, restore, and as needed rebuild the historic, landmarked Tony Dapolito Recreation Center. We strongly oppose using this funding to demolish the Center.

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Inspections of the site performed by Village Preservation and others have confirmed what we have long understood — there is no reason this building cannot be repaired and renovated. Demolition would not only mean a loss of a beloved piece of our community's history. It would endanger every landmarked building in New York City by saying it's ok to neglect, defer maintenance, and demolish landmarks when doing so is more convenient than repairing and renovating. It is also less environmentally responsible.

The many issues that have been pointed out about this structure — that it's old, that it was built in stages, that it's in need of repair, and that not all its facilities are up to current code — are true of countless NYC buildings and landmarks that have been repaired, restored, and brought up to code, and make irreplaceable contributions to city life. Just a few nearby examples include Jefferson Market Library, the Public Theatre, and Westbeth Artists Housing. But the list is long, as is that of the excuses the City has offered for not repairing and restoring this building.

We strongly urge the Mayor and the City Council to fund a full restoration and renovation of the Tony Dapolito Center, and to abandon plans to demolish the site.


Sincerely,



Andrew Berman
Executive Director, Village Preservation



Raymond Cline
President, Village Reform Democratic Club (VRDC)



Irene Kaufman
Co-President, Village Independent Democrats (VID)



Sommer Omar
Founder, Coalition to Save the Public Recreation Center (SPRCD)



Richard Corman
President, Downtown Independent Democrats (DID)



Kenny Wind
President, Grand Street Democrats



Mark Fiedler
President, Bleecker Area Merchants Residents Association (BAMRA)

Cc: Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine
State Senator Brian Kavanaugh
Assemblymember Deborah Glick