

Hon. Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President
1 Centre Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Brian Kavanaugh
NY State Senator
250 Broadway, Room 2011
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Yuh-Line Niou
NY State Assemblymember
64 Fulton Street, Room 302
New York, NY 10038

Hon. Margaret Chin
NY Council Member, District 1
101 Lafayette St, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10013

September 4, 2020

RE: 70 Mulberry Street

Dear Borough President Brewer, State Assemblymember Niou, Council Member Chin and State Senator Kavanaugh,

I am writing in response to your request that the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) undertake a preservation assessment of 70 Mulberry Street.

First, I want to say thank you for your continued support and for being a trusted partner. The past six months have presented several challenges to all New Yorkers. The Chinatown community has been impacted more than most, with not only the COVID-19 pandemic but also the tragic fire that occurred at 70 Mulberry Street. We appreciate how each of you has worked with us under unprecedented circumstances to restore and rebuild 70 Mulberry.

Since the January fire, we have engaged various stakeholders and received a tremendous amount of input from the community. Our response has always been thoughtful and collaborative. In addition to engaging with you, we have met with tenants on numerous occasions, attended multiple public

community board meetings, participated in a forum for area small business owners, and helped organize the town hall forum you mentioned. It was through our dialogue with the community that DCAS had decided to halt the demolition at 70 Mulberry and develop a community engagement plan. We wanted the decision of how we move forward to be driven by the community. You, along with the 70 Mulberry Street tenants, are part of the advisory committee that helps to guide this process.

Also, at the community's request, DCAS has engaged with a third-party firm to conduct an independent architectural evaluation of the building. The report by LiRo Group and Simpson Gumpertz & Heger Inc. is a thorough assessment of the architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire alarm assets of the building. The report can be a tremendous tool for the public to utilize throughout this process.

Finally, we agree that the design decisions for a rebuilt facility should be guided by what existing elements of the building can be preserved and that those decisions should not impede the structural integrity of the building or the renovations needed to bring the building up to code. We are certainly aware that there will need to be further dialogue on the matter and we will continue to assess the need for this analysis as we reimagine 70 Mulberry.

Again, thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely,



Lisette Camilo

CC: Peg Breen, President, The New York Landmarks Conservancy
Sarah Carroll, Chair, Landmarks Preservation Commission
Richard Moses, President, Lower East Side Preservation Initiative
Alysha Lewis-Coleman, Chair, Community Board 3
H.T. Chen, H. T. Chen & Dancers
Hong Shing Lee, Chinatown Manpower Project
Wayne Ho, President, Chinese-American Planning Council
Nancy Yao Maasbach, Museum of Chinese in America
Echo Wong, United East Athletics Association