



OFFICE OF THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT
THE BRONX COUNTY BUILDING
851 GRAND CONCOURSE
BRONX, NEW YORK 10451

RUBEN DIAZ JR.
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

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July 8, 2013

Mathew M. Wambua
Commissioner
Department of Housing Preservation and Development
100 Gold Street
New York, New York 10038

Seth W. Pinsky
President
New York City Economic Development Corporation
110 William Street
New York, New York 10038

Edna Wells Handy
Commissioner
Department of Citywide Administrative Services
1 Centre Street
New York, New York 10007

Dear Commissioners:

I am requesting your assistance in expediting a process for soliciting proposals to determine the future use of 425 Grand Concourse, currently the site of the former P.S. 31. At the June 27, 2013, general board meeting of Community Board #1 various agencies, including the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) and the Department of Buildings all reported that the historic building was at a critical juncture. At the same meeting, a representative from the Mayor's Office also reported that these agencies were evaluating proposals for its redevelopment or demolition and new development before making a determination for the future use of this building and the property it is located on.

Given the state of the property, the time to act is now.

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At this point, I am first requesting that the building be transferred to an appropriate agency or agencies, be it HPD, the New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC), or a joint venture between the two. Secondly, I am asking that those agencies immediately evaluate the condition of the building and financial feasibility of its redevelopment or demolition and new development. Finally, I am requesting that this administration expedite a request for proposals

(RFP) process to solicit interest in the rehabilitation of the building or the demolition and redevelopment of the site.

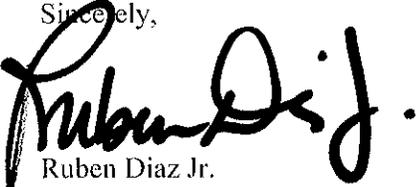
This is a unique site that offers an opportunity for an equally unique development project, one that may include commercial, retail, housing, or educational uses, or even a creative mix of many different uses.

Given the deleterious condition of the building, which is obvious to anyone walking past, I am asking that all the agencies involved act with all due speed required by this situation.

To assist in this process, my office has commissioned a visioning study in anticipation of this RFP in order to inform that process. As part of this process, I would greatly appreciate a tour of the building as quickly as possible.

Please have appropriate staff contact my office with any questions and to schedule the tour.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruben Diaz Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ruben Diaz Jr.

RDJr./p&d/wr