

February 20, 2020

Most Reverend Timothy Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York
Cardinal's Office
1011 First Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

Your Excellency:

We write to express our concern with the Archdiocese of New York's closure and disposition of its properties in Manhattan Community District 3 and to request a meeting in the interest of including community perspectives during this ongoing process.

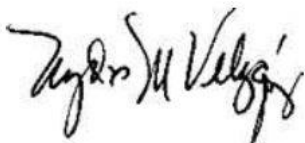
We applaud the essential role the Catholic Church has been playing in addressing the challenges of homelessness and housing insecurity. However, our communities are perplexed when they learn of plans to build luxury residences on sites that were home to devoted, moderate-income congregations, such as the recent announcement regarding the Church of the Nativity site. Additionally, plans for the St. Emeric Church and St. Brigid School sites have not been conveyed directly to the community.

The Archdiocese's Real Estate Division reviewed and declined a neighborhood-led proposal for the Nativity site. Manhattan Community Board 3 subsequently adopted two resolutions in 2019 opposing Nativity's sale to market-rate developers and requesting a meeting with you to discuss alternatives. In addition, the Manhattan Borough President recently convened a Religious Facilities Task Force to confront these very issues throughout the borough. Despite these efforts, our community still seeks clarification on the aforementioned sites.

Confronting New York City's affordable-housing crisis will require strong collaboration among faith leaders, the private sector, government, and affected communities, and we hope you will engage in this partnership directly. To kick-start this dialogue in our community, we respectfully request to meet with Your Eminence.

We will follow up with your staff regarding a request for a meeting. In the meantime, they may reach out to any of us directly or via Pedro Carrillo, Chief of Staff to Councilwoman Rivera, at 212-677-1077.

Sincerely Yours,



Nydia Velazquez
US Representative, 7th District



Alysha Lewis-Coleman
Chair, Manhattan Community Board 3



Brian Kavanagh
NYS State Senator, 26th District



Brad Hoylman
NYS Senator, 27th District



Deborah Glick
NYS Assembly Member, 66th District



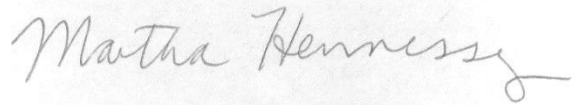
Harvey Epstein
NYS Assembly Member, 74th District



Gale Brewer
Borough President, Manhattan



Carlina Rivera
NYC Council Member, 2nd District



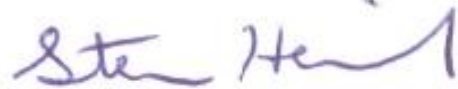
Martha Hennessy
Member, Nativity Committee



Valerio Orselli
Member, Nativity Committee



Joanne Kennedy
The Catholic Worker



Steve Herrick
Director, Cooper Square Committee



Laura Sewell
Director, East Village Community Coalition