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October 6, 2021

Louise Carroll  
Commissioner  
NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development  
100 Gold Street  
New York, NY 10038

Dear Commissioner Carroll:

It has come to my attention that 206 West 120th Street, a 26-unit city-owned property, was recently terminated from the Tenant Interim Lease (TIL) program. Under TIL, the building would convert into an HDFC co-op, creating the type of affordable homeownership opportunity that New York City greatly needs. I ask HPD to work with the Tenants Association (TA) and with Legal Aid Society (LAS) to reinstate this building back under TIL.

I understand that, with LAS's assistance to members of the TA, the building entered into a stipulation with HPD in February 2020, allowing the building to come off of probation and continue with TIL. Members of the TA understood their responsibility to supply HPD with financial documents at the time, and they remain interested in pursuing co-op conversion today. I also understand that the TA has encountered challenges in completing all of the require stipulations in recent months due to extenuating circumstances—a member of the TA was hospitalized and was unable to supply financial records to HPD while she combatted her illness.

Unfortunately, this TA member has since passed away. The remaining TA members have continued to fulfill their financial reporting obligations to HPD and have completed the majority of the requirements set forth in the stipulation, providing all documentation to the best of their ability. They have shown their dedication to the co-op conversion process and demonstrated their capabilities as leaders to sustain the building despite the death of a fellow resident leader and under added restrictions due the pandemic. I fully believe the TA is capable of managing their building as a co-op going forward, and I support 206 West 120th Street as it moves through the conversion process.

Sincerely,

Hon. Charles Powell  
Chairman - Housing Committee  
Manhattan Community Board 10

Cicely Harris  
Chairwoman  
Manhattan Community Board 10