



Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation

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September 22, 2014

Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Rick D. Chandler, P.E., Commissioner
New York City Department of Buildings
280 Broadway, 7th floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Trump SoHo, 246 Spring Street, Manhattan

Dear Mayor de Blasio and Department of Buildings Commissioner Chandler:

It has recently been reported that the Trump SoHo Condo-Hotel, located at 246 Spring Street, is headed into foreclosure and will be sold. As you know, many, including this organization, contended that this development should never have been allowed to be built, as it violated the zoning for the area, which prohibited residential or residential hotel uses (in spite of a recent zoning change, such a use is still prohibited at this site). In response, the prior administration placed a series of restrictions upon the operation of the condo-hotel, including prohibiting owners' stays to no more than 120 days per year, and no more than 29 days within any 36 day period. Close monitoring was supposed to take place to ensure that these rules were being following, including annual audits, and penalties were proscribed for violations.

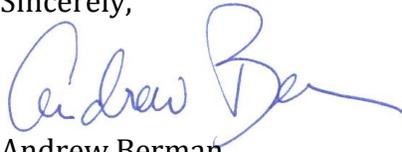
However, as you may also know, the close monitoring which was supposed to take place never did; over the course of the three years between the Trump SoHo opening and 2013, audits were not submitted to the Department of Buildings as required, the Department of Buildings never asked for such audits, and no penalties were ever imposed for the failure to supply such audits. After repeated requests for the status of these inspections by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation were ignored by the Department of Buildings in 2013, this information was only revealed in response to a Freedom of Information request which we filed.

A change in ownership of the Trump SoHo may result in changes in the operation of the condo-hotel. For this reason, I strongly urge the Department of Buildings to undertake complete and thorough oversight of the Trump SoHo, both before and after any sale, to ensure that it is in complete compliance with the zoning and with the restrictive declaration which allowed it to be built. I also urge that the strict enforcement action be taken that the prior administration was unwilling to undertake if the

building is found to be out of compliance with either the requirements of the zoning or the restrictive declaration which governs its operation.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Berman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew Berman
Executive Director

Cc: Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer
City Councilmember Corey Johnson
State Senator Brad Hoylman
State Senator Daniel Squadron
Assemblymember Deborah Glick
Carl Weisbrod, Director, NYC Department of City Planning
Community Board #2, Manhattan
SoHo Alliance