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**THOMAS K. DUANE**  
CITY COUNCIL, 3RD DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

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**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
275 7TH AVENUE  
12TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10001  
212/929-5501  
FAX: 212/929-5562

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John  
Kevin Finnegan  
Steve Wilder*

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Hon. Rudolph W. Giuliani  
Mayor, City of New York  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Giuliani:

I am writing to you regarding the city's decision for the use and development of 2 Columbus Circle.

It has been reported that there are two plans the city is now considering -- one by Developer Donald Trump which would include the demolition of the current building and the erection in its place of a 30-story hotel, and one by the Dahesh Museum which would re-use the current building for its original purpose, that of an art museum. In terms of type of use, size and impact of development, and preservation of the current building, the latter proposal is much better suited to the area. In this extremely heavily congested area, a smaller building, with a use which would tend to generate less vehicular traffic such as an art museum, would be vastly preferable. As the city struggles to come up with a solution to traffic problems at Columbus Circle, and as the mammoth Coliseum Project moves forward, I believe that it is of the utmost importance that we do not continue to overburden the infrastructure of this area. I also believe that with the recent development of a large hotel on Columbus Circle, the area would much more greatly benefit from a cultural institution than another hotel. In fact, the quality which has made this stretch of the Broadway corridor special is the presence of world class cultural institutions. However, the enormous amount of construction which has taken place in and around this area in recent years, combined with the massive amount of potential new construction following the passage of the Theater District/8th Avenue Rezoning, threatens to overwhelm the area. It should be kept in mind that 2 Columbus Circle directly abuts a residential district to the east, and in fact the areas just off Columbus Circle in most directions are largely residential as well.

Lastly, many preservationists have made the case that 2 Columbus Circle is architecturally significant and therefore worth saving. While the building, in spite of repeated requests for a hearing, has not been landmarked (although it is now old enough to be eligible), its size and

its conformity to the peculiar shape of Columbus Circle make it unusually compatible with its surroundings.

I hope that you will give very serious consideration to these factors before a final decision is made for this site's future.

Sincerely,



Thomas K. Duane  
Councilmember, 3rd District  
State Senator-elect, 27th District

cc: Deputy Mayor Randy Levine  
Planning Commissioner Joseph Rose  
Economic Development Corporation President Charles Millard  
Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields  
State Senator Catherine Abate  
State Senator Franz Leichter  
Assemblymember Richard Gottfried  
Assemblymember Scott Stringer  
Councilmember Ronnie Eldridge  
State Senator-elect Eric Schneiderman  
Community Board #4  
Community Board #5 ✓  
Community Board #7  
Committee for Environmentally Sound Development