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6-1
PLEASE RESPOND TO:
□ 494 8TH AVENUE, 5TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001
PHONE (212) 268-1049
FAX (212) 564-1003
□ ROOM 415
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
PHONE (518) 455-2451
FAX (518) 426-6846

February 21, 2002

Mayor Michael Bloomberg
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg,

We are writing to you regarding the city's plans for the use and development of 2 Columbus Circle. 2 Columbus Circle is an architecturally significant structure that is an important part of New York City's cultural heritage. Our city must maintain this location for cultural uses. We urge you to fight for the preservation of this site by taking two courses of action.

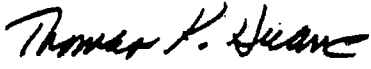
First, we ask you to ensure that the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) earmarks the site for cultural use. The EDC acquired the building in 1980 from the Gulf and Western Foundation, which sold it under the condition that it be used only for cultural purposes, or else be remanded to the foundation. In 1996, the Viacom Foundation, which had absorbed Gulf and Western, sold the right to enforce this condition to the EDC. Now, the EDC has control over the fate of this building. They have, in the past, considered and rejected bids from cultural institutions such as the Dahesh Museum. We urge you to press the EDC to insist upon a cultural use for the site in question, and we hope that all appropriate public review measures will be followed.

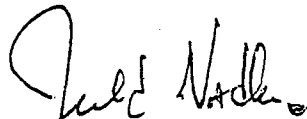
Second, we ask you to support any efforts to landmark the site. 2 Columbus Circle was designed in 1965 by Edward Durell Stone to house the Huntington Hartford Gallery of Modern Art. With its concave marble façade – a response to its location on the famed traffic circle – and lollipop-like street level concourse, the building has inspired spirited debate about urban design. Architectural historians and preservationists who are concerned about 20th century buildings point out that while its quirky appearance may not appeal to all, it is difficult to refute the significance of 2 Columbus Circle: it is a major


work by one of America's leading architects, designed for a prominent client and in every way contextual to its highly significant site. Indeed, Robert A.M. Stern, dean of the Yale School of Architecture, who favors landmark designation for the building, called it "important, thoughtful and carefully articulated."


We would greatly appreciate any help you can be in upholding the original spirit of the gift from Gulf and Western to the city of New York. Please keep us informed of any actions you take in this matter.

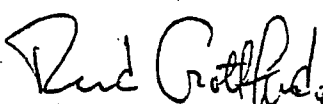
Sincerely,

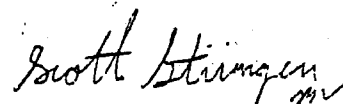

Thomas K. Duane
State Senator



Jerrold Nadler
U.S. Congressman



Carolyn Maloney
U.S. Congressman

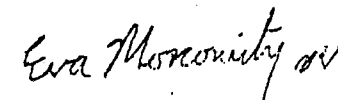

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State Senator


Richard Gottfried
State Assemblymember


Scott Stringer
State Assemblymember


Christine Quinn
City Councilmember


Gale Brewer
City Councilmember


Eva Moskowitz
City Councilmember

Cc:

Daniel Doctoroff, Deputy Mayor for Finance and Economic Development
Kate Levin, Deputy Mayor for Administration
Patricia Harris, Commissioner of Department of Cultural Affairs
Community Boards 4, 5, and 7
Coalition for a Livable West Side
Committee for Environmentally Sound Development
Landmarks West
New York City Economic Development Corporation