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July 27, 2005

Ms. Bonnie Burnham, President
World Monuments Fund
95 Madison Avenue, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10016

Mr. Richard Moe, President
National Trust for Historic Preservation
1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Mr. Jay DiLorezno, President
Preservation League of New York State
44 Central Avenue
Albany, New York 12206

Mr. Kent Barwick, President
Municipal Arts Society
457 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Ms. Peg Breen, President
New York Landmarks Conservancy
141 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10010

Mr. Simeon Bankoff, Executive Director
Historic Districts Council
232 East 11th Street
New York, New York 10003

Ms. Nina Rappaport, Co-Chair
DOCOMOMO US New York/Tri-State
P.O. Box 250532
New York, New York 10025

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Mayor Michael Bloomberg has asked that I respond to your July 11, 2005 letter concerning the City of New York's plan to sell the building at 2 Columbus Circle to the Museum for Arts and Design (the "Museum"). As you know, the Museum intends to renovate the existing building and use it as its primary exhibition and office space. While the Mayor appreciates your request that the building be preserved in its existing form, he has asked me to inform you that he will be unable to meet to discuss your concerns due, in part, to pending litigation that challenges this plan.

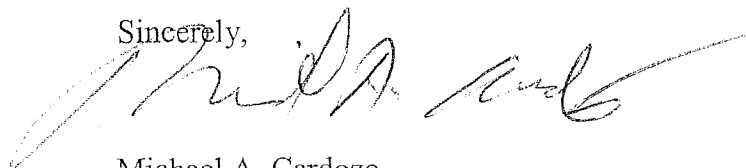
The City has long supported the revitalization of Columbus Circle, part of which includes the renovation of 2 Columbus Circle, as well as the construction of the Time Warner headquarters and the renovation of Columbus Circle Park. The plan for the renovation of 2 Columbus Circle dates back several years. During that time, a thorough environmental review was prepared, which included an extensive historical and architectural analysis of the building, as well as consultation with the Landmarks Preservation Commission. The plan has been publicly scrutinized and has received all necessary approvals. The City and the Museum recently entered into a contract for the sale of the building, and the City hopes to close on that contract in the near future.

While I understand that you would like the Landmarks Preservation Commission to schedule a public hearing concerning 2 Columbus Circle, the decision not to do so dates back to 1996. At that time, the Landmarks Preservation Commission determined that it would not calendar a hearing concerning 2 Columbus Circle. That decision has remained through a change in the City's administration and throughout the tenure of two subsequent Commission Chairs. While there may be, as you state, and as is true in many issues of this type, divergent views regarding this building, the decision not to hold a hearing is a decision that lies within the exclusive discretion of the Landmarks Commission. Since 1996, the Landmarks Commission's decision not to hold a hearing has not changed.

Under all these circumstances, and given the pending lawsuits challenging the proposed sale, the meeting you request with the Mayor regarding the building's landmark status would not be appropriate.

Again, thank you for sharing your opinion regarding this building.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Cardozo

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cc: Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg
Deputy Mayor Patricia Harris
Chair Robert B. Tierney