

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

July 13, 2016

Ross J. Holden
Executive Vice President and General Counsel
School Construction Authority
30-30 Thomson Avenue
Long Island City, NY 11101

Re: 68th Police Precinct Station House and Stable Buildings
4302 4th Avenue, Brooklyn (Block 728, Lot 36)

Dear Mr. Holden,

The New York Landmarks Conservancy opposes any plan to demolish the individual landmark at 4302 4th Avenue. We recognize the compelling goal of adding school seats in Community School District 15, Sunset Park; however, we do not believe that a destroying a remnant of the community's history is necessary to achieve it. The City would be setting a dangerous precedent in purchasing a designated landmark only to raze it.

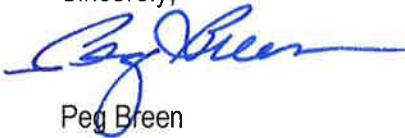
We have surveyed the alternate sites that the SCA has put forward, and have found that at least two sites: 235 Prospect Park West; and 4002 Fort Hamilton Parkway could accommodate a new public school.

But if the SCA determines that the 4th Avenue site is the only viable site, the only appropriate treatment is to reuse the existing buildings and incorporate them into a new school facility. Reuse would honor local history and provide an opportunity for education. Since its inception, the SCA has worked with historic buildings, restoring them and adding on to them. This instance should be no different.

As the Landmarks Commission's designation report states, the 1886 Romanesque Revival-style Station House and Stable are "rare surviving 19th-century Brooklyn police precinct structures." Despite decades of neglect in both public and private ownership, and severe deterioration on the interior, the exterior still stands, with large amounts of intact historic fabric.

In a section of the City with so few designated landmarks, we ask that the School Construction Authority make every effort to reuse this significant historic structure. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Peg Breen
President