



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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COREY JOHNSON
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

May 1, 2013

Mr. Joseph J. Mulvey
Facilities Implementation
U.S. Postal Service
Two Congress Street, Room 8
Milford, Massachusetts 01757 – 9998

Re: Old Chelsea Postal Station – 217 W. 18th Street

Dear Mr. Mulvey:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB 4) representing Hell's Kitchen/Clinton and Chelsea is deeply concerned about the possible sale and demolition of the Old Chelsea Postal Station at 217 W. 18th Street in the heart of our neighborhood. A national landmark built in 1935 with two bas relief stone panels by Paul Fiene, Old Chelsea serves a diverse residential and commercial population in one of the fastest growing areas of New York City. It maintains a federal presence in our local community announcing the wider community in which we participate.

Two weeks ago MCB 4 held a forum on the situation of our post office. You were present and witnessed the distress and heard the sentiments of the people in Chelsea. We want our centrally located post office: it is critical to the lives of many. We do recognize the financial environment in which the USPS is operating but we do not believe this a reason to exclude from consideration alternatives to selling the property to a private developer.

MCB 4 urges the USPS to thoughtfully analyze the scenarios listed below in our order of preference. Encouraging transparency of your decision making process including the assumptions you will be using; we would hope to review your results.

- Preserve the existing building and rethink the use of space.
- Preserve the existing building and sell the development air rights above the building for transfer to another site.
- Preserve the existing building and perhaps use a smaller footprint within it renting the unoccupied space.

- Sell the development air rights above the building and construct a tower preserving the existing structure so the historic exterior will not be lost to the community and the murals and space inside will be maintained.

These four possibilities incorporate some similar elements and are not at all mutually exclusive. We believe with intelligence and focus and respect for our community you will be able to determine a way to preserve our Old Chelsea Postal Station and enhance your financial viability.

Sincerely,



Corey Johnson
Chair

cc: Congressman Jerrold Nadler
Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney
NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn
NYC Council Member Gale Brewer
NYS Senator Brad Hoylman
NYS Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal
NYS Assemblyman Richard Gottfried
Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer