



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner

February 23, 2017

Rev. Msgr. Anthony Hernandez, J.C.L.
Chancellor, Diocese of Brooklyn
310 Prospect Park West
Brooklyn, NY 11215

Rev. Msgr. Alfred P. LoPinto
Chief Executive Officer
Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens
191 Joralemon Street
Brooklyn, NY 11215

Christine L. Chisholm
Senior VP for Real Estate and Development
CCPOP Management
191 Joralemon Street, 8th Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Re: Our Lady of Loreto Church Building
Sackman Street at Pacific Street, Brooklyn, Kings County

Dear Rev. Msgr. Hernandez, Rev. Msgr. LoPinto and Ms. Chisholm:

On February 13 NYS Senator Tony Avella hosted a meeting to bring our Agency, members of the Brownsville community and other interested parties together to discuss the future of the former Our Lady of Loreto Church.

At that meeting, as we have since 2008, we reiterated our belief that the building is a significant part of American architectural, engineering and cultural history and that is truly worthy of every last effort to preserve. This echoed the first stipulation in the previously executed Letter of Resolution that noted that the *“primary mitigation for the demolition and alterations at the Our Lady of Loreto Church Complex is the survival of the 1906 church building.”*

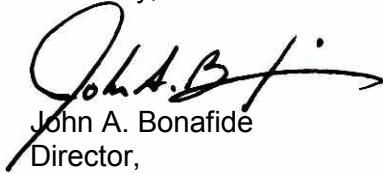
Since my letter of October 11, 2016 it has been brought to our attention that a growing community based effort to preserve and reuse the building has taken root. The Brownsville Cultural Coalition made a credible presentation at our recent meeting on the potential to reuse the former church as a much needed community based cultural arts center. The growing energy of this movement was most recently seen in the awarding of a New York Landmarks Conservancy grant to the group for a conditions study of the former church. This analysis would provide a critical answer as to the feasibility of adaptive reuse and renovation of the building based on its engineering status and condition.

Our office views this opportunity as being in keeping with the spirit of the executed agreement and our long standing concern over preserving this landmark. If this opportunity had presented itself last year my October letter would have been very different in its recommendations.

As such, we strongly encourage the Diocese and Catholic Charities to work with the Brownsville Cultural Coalition to facilitate this important structural analysis. We ask that you apprise us directly of your decision on this request for access to the building for this important work.

If you would like to discuss these comments please do not hesitate to contact me at (518) 268-2166 or john.bonafide@parks.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Bonafide". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

John A. Bonafide
Director,
Technical Preservation Services Bureau
Agency Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Sen Tony Avella *(via email)*
Mario Toglia *(via email)*
Lester Ford *(via email)*
Miriam Robertson *(via email)*
Dr. Flavia Alaya *(via email)*
Heather Spitzberg, HCR *(via email)*
Ann-Isabel Friedman, NYLC *(via email)*
Kevin M Bernstein *(via email)*