



**Puerto Rican Council
180 Suffolk Street
New York, New York 10002
Tele: (212) 674-6730**

April 1, 2005

9th & 10th Street, L.L.C.
186 West 80th Street
New York, New York 10024

Gentlemen:

In the 1970's the Puerto Rican Council was founded as a non-profit multi-service organization. It was funded for decades through the New York City Community Development Agency to combat poverty through out the Lower East Side operating satellite offices at that time from the Mariana Bracetti Plaza and the Jacob Riis Houses Community Centers. In the 1980's the Puerto Rican Council merged with the Association of Community Services Centers (Association) and then opened up our main head quarters on East Houston Street around the corner from the Puerto Rican Council Day Care Center.

The Puerto Rican Council Day Care Center was established in the 1970's. This child development center is located at 180 Suffolk Street and provides child-care and after school services to 140 preschool and 70 after-school children annually.

The Puerto Rican Council is composed of leaders from throughout the four corners of the Lower East Side in the same fashion that the United Jewish Council of the East Side, Inc. and the Chinese American Planning Council, Inc. are.

This is who we are and this is what we do. Our organization lays claim to being one of the few legitimate organizations that truly represents and advocates for the needs of the Puerto Rican Lower East Side Community.

The issue of Charas/El Bohio has been brought to our attention by what we have seen in the media and read in the newspapers. We have also met with Mr. Gregg L. Singer to provide him with an opportunity to present his point of view on this controversy. To begin, this building has a community facility use deed restriction, which limits what Mr. Singer can and can't do with his property. For the past five years, Mr. Singer has done out reach into the Puerto Rican non-profit community in the hopes of providing affordable long-term leases. While



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he has attempted to abide by the deed restriction, City Council Member Margarita Lopez has cast a warning to the non-profit community to stay away from Mr. Singer with using the treat of her office by no longer supporting our organizations financially.

Now the issue arises of the partial demolition of this former school building and the possible construction of a dormitory in its place. According to the City Council Member Lopez, no way would she accept this either. The Council Member is now threatening the universities that could benefit by this proposed development project.

It is the position of the Puerto Rican Council to support Mr. Singer's intent to abide by the deed restriction that City Council Member Margarita Lopez fought so hard to include. It is for this reason that we would like to formerly go on record as supporting 9th & 10th Street; L.L.C. plans in constructing University House as a nineteen-story dormitory on the former site of Charas/El Bohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cecilia Abrilla".

Cecilia Abrilla,

Educational Director