

Coalition to Save P.S. 109

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April 5, 2000
 Harvey Brind
 New York City School
 Construction Authority
 30-30 Thompson Ave
 Long Island City NY 11101-3045
 718-472-8000

Dear Mr. Brind,

I am writing to you to suggest that PS. 109 be effectively protected from water due to rain and other unfriendly weather conditions. As you know, around this time last year, the School Construction Authority under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education, commenced the illegal demolition of PS. 109 in violation of both the State Historic Preservation act, (SHPA) and the State Quality Review Act, (SEQRA). At that time the gutters and leaders were removed from the building, consequently, when it rains or snows the water is being absorbed by the structural elements of the building. The longer this condition is allowed to continue, the more the water accumulates, thus raising the cost of repairing the building. We are suggesting that a temporary system of gutters and leaders be installed as soon as possible. The following steps should be taken to prevent further water damage that has been left unchecked up to this time

1. Install temporary polyvinyl-chloride, (P.V.C) exterior leaders at 30 locations were the existing leaders are protruding from just under the gable roof.
2. At the bottom of the leader ground floor, install 30 temporary splash blocks.
3. Install temporary P.V.C. scuppers that collect water at the bottom of the gable, needed at the 30 locations
4. Reline the existing gutters at the bottom of gable roof with roofing sheets of membrane that will direct all rainwater to the scuppers.

In addition, it is my opinion, after speaking to my architects and indeed your own contractor on the sight of PS. 109, that it would be adventitious to cover the roof with plywood rather than temporary plastic tarps. At present time the tarps you put up just about two months ago are already tearing. I have photographed all of my observations and would be happy to send you copies.

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I have been assured by Ms Patricia Zadelis, Chief Executive for School Facilities at the Board of Education in her letter dated February 16, 2000 She concluded with:

"It is our understanding that this work has begun. The School Construction Authority has agreed to monitor conditions to insure that the building remains watertight pending a decision on how best to proceed [sic] at this sight."

At this time the work has still not commenced. The building still remains open and vulnerable to the elements, even after many assurances from both the Board of Education and the School Construction Authority.

Mr. Brind, I am in receipt of your letter dated April 4, 2000 in which you state "Please be advised we have undertaken to repair the tarps, and will complete as soon as the weather permits." I would like to ask what kind of weather you need to commence work? The weather was beautiful on March 22, 2000 when Miss Rachelson, of the SCA, told Kathy Howe, of the State Preservation Office that your contractor would be at PS. 109 on that day or the next, however know one ever showed. The following week your contractor came alone for three more days in which the weather was optimum, however he did no work. Today was sunny and dry and know one showed. I would ask you again when exactly we can expect the work to begin? I thank you for kind consideration.

Respectfully
Gwen Goodwin
for the coalition to save PS. 109

cc: Milo Rivero
Lemuel Srolovic NY State Attorney General's Office
Kathleen Howe New York Office of Parks Recreation and Historic preservation
Michael Marr Morland Act Commission
Patricia Zadelis Chief Executive for School Facilities at the New York Board of Education