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WILLIAM C. THOMPSON, JR.
COMPTROLLER

January 31, 2005

The Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

I have recently learned that the City plans to use \$16 million in capital funds to renovate the exterior of the empty Brooklyn House of Detention located at 275 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn.

I am also aware that the City has spent \$30 million to repair this unoccupied building and that the City continues to be burdened with ongoing emergency repair costs associated with securing the property.

Efforts by our City's law enforcement community have resulted in our inmate population being at its lowest level in 15 years. Because of this extraordinary development and the fact that this site is located within Downtown Brooklyn's rapidly developing commercial hub, I believe that the sale of this property may better meet the needs of our City's residents.

Although it is important that we complete emergency repairs to this dilapidated building, a sale of this property would place it on the City's tax rolls, promote the further revitalization of the Atlantic Avenue corridor and bring the City much needed revenue. Accordingly, I urge your staff to re-consider whether Brooklyn's residents are best served by the further expenditure of City funds to upgrade this site.

I look forward to your reply.

Very truly yours,


William C. Thompson, Jr.

c: M. Horn
M. Hirst