



NYC Department of Buildings
280 Broadway, New York, NY 10007

Patricia J. Lancaster, FAIA, Commissioner

Christopher Santulli, P.E.
Borough Commissioner
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December 20, 2006

Mr. Andrew Berman
Executive Director
Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation
232 East 11th Street
New York, New York 10003

**Re: 246 Spring Street
Manhattan**

Dear Mr. Berman:

I write in response to your December 13, 2006 letter to Commissioner Lancaster, requesting that work be stopped in light of the discovery of human remains at the construction site at 246 Spring Street in Manhattan. Thank you for your inquiry and please be advised that the Buildings Department issued a Stop Work Order ("SWO") on December 12, 2006 to owner Bayrock/Sapir Organization, LLC. Contained in DOB violation #121206C0201CF.

The Buildings Department, in consultation with the Landmarks Preservation Commission ("Landmarks"), has requested that the owner submit a work plan to address the proper handling of the human remains. In response to the Departments request for additional information the owner has completed the following steps to date.

The owner has retained the firm AKRF, Inc. and URS Corporation to perform the necessary work. On December 15, 2006, the owner submitted to the Department a work plan by AKRF/URS that is presently under review, with consultation by Landmarks.

The owner has agreed to have their consultant contact the Presbyterian Church to assist with identification of the remains and in determining the appropriate reburial in consultation with descendant communities.

The owner and their consultants have represented that an archeologist will be onsite to monitor the progress of the work through completion of the archeological study...

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Work will resume at the site in a phased program which will allow isolation and recovery of the remains in a supervised and respectful manner. In addition, once specific site areas have been studied and cleared by the archeologists, construction activities may resume in those areas.

Thank you for bringing forward your concerns. The Department strives to enforce and facilitate construction which complies with Building Code and Zoning Resolution, in the interest of the public.

Please feel free to contact this office with any further concerns or questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Christopher M. Santulli, P.E.
Borough Commissioner
Manhattan

CMS:dre

CC: Scott Stringer, Borough President, Manhattan
Patricia J. Lancaster, FAIA, Commissioner
Robert B. Tierney, Chair, Landmarks
City Council Speaker Christine Quinn
Mona Sehgal, General Counsel