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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2009

*****MEDIA ALERT*****

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BREWER CELEBRATES SALE OF THE WINDERMERE BUILDING

Upper West Side - May 21, 2009 - I am pleased that there is a buyer for the Windermere, 400-406 West 57 Street, New York, NY, and that he closed this week, taking ownership of this landmarked building from Mr. Masako Tamagata, the owner of Tao Construction Company, a large company based in Japan. Mr. Tamagata had purchased the building when he was a tourist in New York City, but subsequently deferred all maintenance for all these years.

Attorneys for city agencies as well as for the tenants who had standing have settled, with \$1.2 million being allocated to the Landmarks Preservation Commission, and the new owner also promising to shore up the building. Tenants gave up rights to their apartments but have received allotments in exchange. "I know the former tenants and I am glad that they received compensation because they lived without services for years, and most have not had stable housing since September 2007 when the Fire Department closed the building down at 10 pm at night," said Council Member Gale A. Brewer. "I am also glad that the new owner is fully cognizant that because the tenants who lived in the building when it was fully occupied in the 1980's were harassed and a criminal case was brought against the owner at the time, and because the Windermere is located in the Clinton Special District, a portion of the new units will have to be permanently affordable," continued Council Member Brewer.

The Windermere is a beautiful, eight-story building on the corner of Ninth Avenue and 57 Street. Built in 1881, it is the second-oldest large apartment house in Manhattan. The new owner will be giving back the grandeur of the Windermere, as well as provide a hotel and affordable housing.

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