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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



SENATOR MARIO R. MATTERA
2ND SENATE DISTRICT

June 29, 2021

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To Whom It May Concern:

As the New York State Senator representing the St. James community, I write to express my unwavering support for the purchase and renovation of the historic St. James Theatre by Celebrate St. James. Their goal of transforming this space into a small theatre and cultural arts center for the community and beyond will help further the rebirth of this region and continue the efforts they have undertaken in cooperation with the Town of Smithtown.

This wonderful building is a part of the community's heritage and it is so important that we ensure that it continue to be part of the fabric of the St. James community so future generations have an understanding and appreciation of their history. This project, which the dedicated members of Celebrate St. James have volunteered to undertake, will help protect and preserve the history of the community.

Additionally, the organization's plan to transform this important structure into a community resource while preserving its intrinsic historic value makes this project so much more than simple preservation. Their impressive proposal will include meeting and rehearsal rooms, one on one spaces for art and music therapy, a recording studio, a multi-purpose small theatre for one man shows, movies, historic recreations and other presentations as well as an art gallery and movie museum.

This plan will help attract diverse entertainment including artists, musicians, actors and others who will educate and inspire all who live in and around St. James. That will allow this iconic structure to become an essential element of our region while providing a much-needed link to our storied past.

Clearly, Celebrate St. James is the right organization to bridge that gap between history and future. They are an organization I have had the pleasure of working with both as an elected official and as a community member. Their devotion to their hometown and their willingness to work cohesively with local government, business and civic leaders inspires my faith in their ability to accomplish this important task.

They have, in a short time, had a major impact on the St. James community and their work stands as the greatest testament to their ability to deliver on this project for our residents.

I thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to call on me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mario R. Mattera". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mario" being the most prominent part.

Senator Mario Mattera

