

BRAD HOYLMAN
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November 17, 2014

Mr. Richard Hotter
General Manager
Edison Hotel
228 West 47th Street
New York, NY 10036

Messrs. Shimmie Horn & Gerald Barad
Co-owners
Triumph Hotels
1271 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

Dear Messrs. Hotter, Horn and Barad:

As the State Senator representing the Times Square neighborhood, I am writing to urge you begin negotiations to grant Café Edison a lease for its current location at 228 W 47th Street in the Edison Hotel.

As you are no doubt aware, Café Edison is a beloved small business with deep roots in Times Square, and its closure would be a deep loss for our entire community, particularly those who live and work in and around the Theater District. Since the café was opened in 1980 by Harry and Frances Edelstein, it has become a mainstay of the Broadway entertainment community, including luminaries ranging from Neil Simon to August Wilson. Should Café Edison be forced to close, not only would the city lose reasonably-priced, good food and a piece of our cultural history, but 32 small business jobs would be eliminated as well.

I understand that over the years an informal "handshake" arrangement took the place of a written agreement between Café Edison and your businesses and that Mr. Ulo Barad, the previous owner, refused to provide a lease because he considered the Edelsteins practically as family. I therefore appeal to your sense of fairness and justice and appreciation for preserving the unique character of our city to meet with the operators of Café Edison forthwith and begin negotiations to grant the restaurant a lease.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me directly at 212-633-8052.

Sincerely,



Brad Hoylman
State Senator
27th District

cc: Mr. Wally Rubin, District Manager, Community Board No. 5
Mr. Conrad Strohl, General Manager, Café Edison
Mr. Tim Tompkins, Executive Director, Times Square Alliance



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