

March 9, 2010

Dear Editor,

The Friends of John Jay Homestead (FOJJH) are very grateful to Assemblyman Robert Castelli and the almost 100 supporters who came to the press conference at John Jay Homestead on Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, to help bring to everyone's attention the funding plight of New York State Historic Sites and Parks.

At this point, John Jay Homestead is NOT on the Governor's list of sites to be closed – but many of our sister sites are. FOJJH encourages all supporters to contact our legislators to approve a budget that includes funding for all New York State parks and sites.

The Trustees of FOJJH will be working to determine a long-term solution to the financial stability of this nationally important historic site. We will be putting together a planning committee to explore a range of ideas for long-term stability, and invite anyone who is interested to contribute their ideas and work.

Most importantly, now is the time for our supporters to “stand up and be counted.” The parks and sites slated to close are, we understand, ones with low recorded visitation and low income. Part of the Friends' mission is to keep the John Jay Homestead site as wide-open and accessible as possible. But that hurts us at times like this. We don't count everyone who comes on the property, or charge admission just to visit the grounds, and we have low prices for tours and events. We encourage everyone who uses or cares for John Jay Homestead to come for a tour and/or join the Friends. It is the only way to be counted. Growing our membership and increasing “countable” attendance will keep us safer from threats of closing.

Laurie Lewis  
President  
Friends of John Jay Homestead