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STATEMENT FROM NEW YORK PRESS CLUB PRESIDENT STEVE SCOTT ON MAYOR DE BLASIO'S CLOSED DOOR MEETING TODAY

"The New York Press Club is surprised and dismayed to learn that today's meeting of Mayor Bill de Blasio's commission on public statues and landmarks is being held behind closed doors, at an undisclosed location. Neither the news media nor the general public was invited to attend.

"The mayor's office released a brief statement saying 'we expect opportunities for press coverage in the future and will keep you posted.' This explanation is unacceptable. Meetings of publicly appointed bodies should be open to the public. There is great interest in this issue; the public deserves a voice. Excluding the public and press also runs contrary to Mayor de Blasio's pledge of transparency in his administration. All future meetings of this commission should be open to the news media and the general public."

Steve Scott, President
The New York Press Club