



CICELY HARRIS
Chairperson

SHATIC MITCHELL
District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
215 West 125th Street, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10027
T: 212-749-3105 F: 212-662-4215

March 2, 2022

Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Mount Sinai Hospital's proposed CARES outpatient program relocation

Dear Governor Hochul,

Manhattan Community Board 10 (MCB10) is extremely concerned about Mount Sinai Hospital's proposed relocation of a Comprehensive Adolescent Rehabilitation and Education Service (CARES) outpatient program to 158 W. 124th Street (between Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd. and Malcolm X Blvd.) and ask that you strongly urge Mount Sinai to reconsider their relocation decision.

While we applaud the CARES program for assisting high school students with mental health and substance abuse issues to access treatment as they continue their education toward a high school diploma, we are deeply concerned about the welfare of these vulnerable youth in the present environment on 124th Street. MCB10 and the community at large have repeatedly requested that Mount Sinai reconsider this relocation decision due to long standing community concerns regarding oversaturation of behavioral health services on 124th Street specifically and in the Central Harlem area. Mount Sinai would be introducing vulnerable young people to an area already oversaturated with methadone clinics (119-12 W. 124th Street [the START Treatment and Recovery Center]; 121-125 W. 124th Street [Harlem United Community Health Center]; and 149 W. 124th St. [Mount Sinai /Beth Israel]); and there is also a supervised injection site program in the area as well. The proliferation of so many sites make our vulnerable youth more susceptible to the negative impact of the pervasive loitering and illicit drug activity already threatening the community.

Since 2008, MCB10 has publicly called for a federal, state, and local moratorium on additional behavioral health programs in Central Harlem. According to agency data, Central Harlem currently hosts nearly 20% of the city's methadone treatment programs.

The community is in support of Mount Sinai utilizing the 158 W. 124th street location to address long standing health disparities within the community by expanding access to other primary and

specialty care services such as diabetes, breast cancer, cardiology, respiratory care, obesity, geriatric services, and maternal health.

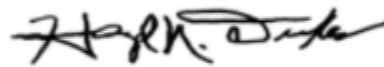
The addition of Mount Sinai's proposed CARES clinic will add to the problems created by the existing methadone clinic sites on 124th Street and potentially create additional stresses for vulnerable youth.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. We are optimistic that, with your support, Mount Sinai will reevaluate its mental health and substance use service delivery plans and refocus on expanding access to other primary and specialty care needs identified by the community.

Sincerely,



Hon. Cicely Harris
Chairwoman
Manhattan Community Board 10



Hon. Hazel Dukes
Chair - Health & Human Services Committee
Manhattan Community Board 10

cc: Mail

Honorable Eric Adams
Office of the Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007