

## Manhattan Community Board 10: Resolution: Immediate Pause on Temporary Housing Shelters in Central Harlem

WHEREAS, Manhattan Community Board 10 serves its charter-mandated duty to advise elected officials and government agencies on matters of concern to constituents within Central Harlem; The Housing Committee is tasked with addressing matters impacting residents in various housing developments including NYCHA, Mitchell-Lama co-ops, HDFCs and the concerns of the housing insecure, not limited to residents that reside in shelter as well as those with housing vouchers, but have yet to find adequate housing for their family composition, and;

WHEREAS, The Community Board has received concerns from community members about an oversaturation of Temporary Housing Shelters within the Central Harlem Community Board District;

WHEREAS, Community Board 10 is actively collecting data on the number of Temporary Housing Shelters within the District from various sources;

WHEREAS, There has been a previous call for a moratorium on medical drug treatment programs in the District, prompting further investigation into the need for a moratorium on Temporary Housing Shelters;

WHEREAS, The urgent need for permanent affordable housing is established, exemplified by cases like 2201 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard, which should be transformed into permanent, affordable housing for local residents rather than temporary shelters;

WHEREAS, Often, communities of color and community districts with poverty rates significantly higher than 10% are burdened with higher numbers of shelter sites; In 2023, 8 out of 59 community boards have zero shelters, failing to contribute the city's "fair share;"

WHEREAS, the 1989 City Charter (Section 203) required that the New York City Planning Commission "to adopt criteria to further the fair distribution of the burdens and benefits associated with City Facilities, consistent with community needs for services and efficient and cost-delivery of services and with due regard for the social and economic impacts of such facilities upon the areas surrounding the sites;"

WHEREAS, In 2017, the NYC City Council issued a report and introduced a package of legislative bills for equitable distribution of city services and social assets as well as improve community access to city facilities and service data;

WHEREAS, The package of legislative bills included bill, Intro. 1491-2017, which would prohibit siting facilities that are currently "highly concentrated" with similar facilities, unless the agency demonstrates how the facility will meet the needs of the community;

WHEREAS, Manhattan Community Board 10 believes in the need for increased permanent housing in the Central Harlem Community and a “fair share” of social services, such as shelters that are distributed throughout New York City;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The City and State of New York are urged to immediately pause any planning or establishment of Temporary Housing Shelters within the Central Harlem Community Board District ; The Community Board should be notified in advance of any plans for the creation of Temporary Housing Shelters ; The City and State of New York should refrain from proceeding with the opening of any new Temporary Housing Shelters until the Community Board has conducted a thorough study on whether there is an over-proliferation of such facilities in the District; The principle of communities receiving their "fair share" of such facilities should be upheld, ensuring that Central Harlem is not burdened with an excessive number of Temporary Housing Shelters.

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