



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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Eleazar Bueno, Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

May 4, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, N Y 12224

Re: Resolution in support of protecting the community from the current impact of COVID-19

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo:

At the General Meeting, Tuesday, April 28, 2020 with a vote of 36 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, 1 not voting, Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed the following resolution supporting S8125A/A10224A introduced by State Senator Michael Gianaris and Assembly Member Yuh Line Niou to suspend rent payments for 90 days; forgiving utilities' bills accrued by those impacted due to financial distress during the pandemic; increasing funding made available for human services across the city, including unemployment insurance, SNAP, Medicaid, and SSI.

Whereas: The State Department of Labor reported there were 7.8 Million calls by New Yorkers seeking unemployment benefits last week and 80,000 filed for unemployment in the week ending March 21st; and

Whereas: NYU's Furman Research Center stated that roughly 1/3 of the 3.2 million households in NYC draw their primary income from someone who is vulnerable to income loss; and

Whereas: 34% of workers in the city are at risk of losing income, and about 48% of Hispanic wage-earners, 38% of Black wage-earners as well as 35% of Asian or Pacific Islander wage-earners were in vulnerable occupations in 2018; and

Whereas: Governor Andrew Cuomo placed a 90-day moratorium on mortgage payments for homeowners but tenants have to pay back landlords after the 90-days pause on evictions are over thus causing further deferred financial distress and no relief to renters; and

Whereas: The N.Y. Times is reporting, based on a recent survey from Property Nest, that about 40% of renters could potentially not be paying rent if they lost their job due to the pandemic; and

Whereas: 90,000 people have already signed on to the Right to Counsel NYC Coalition petition to cancel rent payments; and

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Whereas: The Department of Health Community Profile shows that 53% of Community District 12 residents were rent burdened, 20% were living in poverty, and 12% were unemployed in 2018; and

Whereas: Due to the increased rate of people applying for unemployment insurance, there will be an increase in the likelihood of people accessing public benefits such as public assistance, SNAP, Medicaid and SSI; and

Whereas: Residents of our community will likely be impacted by income loss and underemployment beyond the 90-day period; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: Manhattan Community Board 12 supports S8125A/A10224A introduced by State Senator Michael Gianaris and Assembly Member Yuh Line Niou to suspend rent payments for 90 days; and be it further

Resolved: Manhattan Community Board 12 is in support of forgiving utilities' bills accrued by those impacted due to financial distress during the pandemic; and be it further

Resolved: Manhattan Community Board 12 is in support of increasing funding made available for human services across the city, including unemployment insurance, SNAP, Medicaid, and SSI; and be it further

Resolved: Manhattan Community Board 12 is in support of protections for market-rate renters so that landlords cannot price-gouge rent so as to displace renters; and be it further

Resolved: Manhattan Community Board 12 is in support of protections being instituted for market-rate tenants so as to ensure lease renewals are given in the midst of a pandemic.

Sincerely,



Eleazar Bueno
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman

Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator
Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator
Hon. Alfred Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodríguez, Council Member