



Eleazar Bueno, Chairperson  
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

## Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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December 2, 2020

Hon. Jonnel Doris  
Commissioner of NYC  
Small Business Services  
One Liberty Plaza, 11th Floor  
New York, NY 10006

### **Re: Resolution Honoring Small Businesses in Washington Heights and Inwood in Advance of Small Business Saturday amid the COVID-19 Pandemic.**

Dear Commissioner Doris:

At the General Meeting on Tuesday, November 24, 2020, with a vote of 39 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions, 0 not voting, Community Board 12 Manhattan passed a resolution honoring the partnership with Community League of the Heights, the Washington Heights Business Improvement District, the Inwood Merchant Association, WAHI Chamber of Commerce and the Washington Heights and Inwood Development Corporation, we provide special recognition and appreciation on November 28, 2020, for small businesses in Washington Heights and Inwood we encourage the community and other stakeholders to support them and advocate for their survival not only on November 28, 2020 – but every day beyond during this crisis.

**WHEREAS:** On Saturday, November 28, 2020, the entire nation (including the City of New York) will celebrate Small Business Saturday to encourage people to shop at and support small businesses in their communities;

**WHEREAS:** The Holiday was first celebrated in 2010 – but has taken on an even more significant meaning since the COVID-19 Pandemic closed down the nation and New York State, resulting in severe economic losses for small businesses;

**WHEREAS:** While the pandemic closures, minority have economically impacted all businesses- and immigrant-owned small businesses have been especially vulnerable – with the number of active Black-, Latino-, immigrant-, and Asian-owned companies dropping more than 40%, by 32%, and by a quarter, respectively, during the height of the Pandemic (February through April 2020);

**WHEREAS:** Small businesses in Washington Heights and Inwood have been meeting the unique challenges brought on by the Pandemic with courage, tenacity, and creativity;



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**WHEREAS:** Small businesses in Washington Heights and Inwood have remained committed to finding ways to keep their doors open to continue to serve the community they love, even while trying to adjust to new governmental operating requirements and compliance regulations while having to work with fewer employees and other resources, and while maintaining the same quality of service that their customers deserve;

**WHEREAS:** Small businesses' economic futures remain tenuous as the Pandemic continues to rage throughout our communities as a vaccine is awaited. Therefore be it:

**RESOLVED:** That in partnership with Community League of the Heights, the Washington Heights Business Improvement District, the Inwood Merchant Association, and the Washington Heights and Inwood Development Corporation, we provide special recognition and appreciation on November 28, 2020, for small businesses in Washington Heights and Inwood; and be it further;

**RESOLVED:** We encourage the community and other stakeholders to support them and advocate for their survival not only on November 28, 2020, but also every day beyond this crisis.

**Resolved:** That this resolution is communicated to WAHI BID, WAHI Chamber of Commerce, WAHI and Inwood Merchants Associations, local merchants and, Restaurant Associations.

Sincerely,



Eleazar Bueno  
Chairperson

cc: Isidro Medina, Executive Director WAHI BID  
Board of Directors for WAHI Chamber of  
Commerce  
Dr. Jason Compton, Chair Inwood Merchants  
Assoc.  
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor  
Hon. Jumaane Williams Public Advocate  
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller

Hon. Gale Brewer, Borough President  
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman  
Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator  
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator  
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member  
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member  
Hon. Ydanis Rodríguez, Council Member  
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member

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