



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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Eleazar Bueno, Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

January 29, 2021

Hon. Bill De Blasio
Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Resolution Supporting the proposal to build a Soccer Pitch at P.S./I.S. 187 Hudson Cliffs School in School District 6.

Dear Mayor De Blasio:

At the General Meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, with a vote of 37 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, 1 not voting, Community Board 12 Manhattan passed a resolution supporting the proposal to build a soccer pitch at Hudson Cliffs P.S./I.S. 187 and encouraging an additional soccer pitch in another school in the eastern part of the community in School District 6

WHEREAS: Soccer is a fun and competitive sport that involves the physical activity of two teams, each comprised of 11 players, and they play without using their hands or arms. Playing soccer can lead to many health benefits; and

WHEREAS: Physical activities have been singled out as one of the most important ways to improve people's health and reduce the risk of serious diseases, including obesity, cardiovascular, cancer and Type 2 diabetes, and in general terms, to improve one's quality of life, according to health experts; and

WHEREAS: The game of soccer is a great physical activity from which many young people benefit, especially if they start at an early age. Playing soccer will keep children physically active and improve their social skills, while teaching them teamwork and perseverance. Unfortunately, there is a lack of soccer programs in School District 6; and

WHEREAS: On January 11, 2021, Irfan Ahmed, Senior Programs & Policy Manager from the Mayor's Fund to Advance NYC and a school team from Hudson Cliffs PS/IS 187 attended the Community Board 12M Youth and Education Committee meeting to request the board's support of their proposal to build a "soccer pitch" at P.S./I.S. 187 Hudson Cliffs School, located at 349 Cabrini Boulevard, New York, NY 10040; and

WHEREAS: This proposal is part of a citywide soccer initiative to build and maintain 50 acrylic mini-soccer play spaces in underserved neighborhoods across the five boroughs over five years as well as integrate after-school programming for as many as 10,000 New York City youths and young adults; and

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WHEREAS: It is the first time that a combined partnership of public and private organizations has come together to build mini-soccer fields across the city. A total of \$3 million has been donated for this initiative by the US Soccer Foundation, Adidas and ETIHAD Airways. In addition, a maintenance fund of \$600,000 is being provided by the New York City Football Club to pay for field repairs. NYC Parks, NYC Housing Authority and NYC Department of Education are partners in this project; and

WHEREAS: According to the Mayor: These new soccer fields will be essential in keeping our young New Yorkers safe, active, and connected with the community. We are tackling inequality in all its forms with this partnership, including our parks and outdoor spaces. In the city of immigrants, with so many different languages and cultures, the New York City Soccer Initiative will be one of the great tools we use to unify young New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS: Community Board 12, Manhattan has been a consistent supporter of youth sports and physical activities in the school system and would like to see the children in the Washington Heights-Inwood community benefit from this program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: Community Board 12, Manhattan supports the proposal to build a soccer pitch at Hudson Cliffs P.S./I.S. 187 and would highly encourage an additional soccer pitch in another school in the eastern part of the community in School District 6; and be it further

RESOLVED: Community Board 12, Manhattan urges the school team of PS/IS 187 Hudson Cliffs School to provide access to this program to children from other schools in School District 6 and the wider Washington Heights-Inwood community.

Sincerely,



Eleazar Bueno
Chairperson

cc:

Hon. Richard Carranza, Chancellor, NYC
Hon. Jumaane Williams Public Advocate
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Gale Brewer, Borough President
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman

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