



Eleazar Bueno, Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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June 2, 2021

The Honorable Bill de Blasio
Mayor of New York City
City Hall
New York, N. Y. 10007

Hon. Dr. Dave A. Chokshi
Commissioner
NYC NYC DOHMH
42-09 28th St.,
Long Island City NY, 11101

Hon. Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez
Commissioner
NYC Department for the Aging
2 Lafayette St.,
New York NY, 10007

Re: Resolution Urging Re-opening of Senior Centers

Dear Mayor de Blasio, Commissioner Chokshi, and Commissioner Cortés-Vázquez:

At the General Meeting Tuesday, May 25, 2021 Community Board #12, Manhattan passed a resolution with a vote of 32 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention, 1 no voting ratifying the Executive Committee resolution passed on Monday, May 17, 2021, urging Mayor Bill de Blasio, NYC DOHMH, and NYC DFTA to address re-opening senior centers as a matter of urgency and to engage senior center providers in the planning for immediate re-opening.

WHEREAS: There are nine senior centers in Community District 12;

WHEREAS: Over 10,000 senior citizens are served annually by local senior/older adult centers;

WHEREAS: Senior center buildings have been closed for fourteen months;

WHEREAS: Offices, restaurants, gyms, and other gathering places are being re-opened; WHEREAS:

Seniors are often living alone and/or isolated from family and friends;

WHEREAS: Senior centers meet a wide range of needs and of connection for their members and participants and connect them with additional critical services;

WHEREAS: Many seniors live in Food Deserts and/or face additional challenges in obtaining and preparing healthy food;

WHEREAS: The mental, physical, and nutritional well-being of older New Yorkers is at growing risk from the continuing closure of senior centers, and Seniors throughout the City are speaking out about the impact that these closures are having on their lives;

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WHEREAS: LiveOnNY and Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer are providing leadership to amplify senior voices;

WHEREAS: Mayor Bill de Blasio is himself becoming a senior on his birthday this month;

WHEREAS: Senior center providers have not been engaged in a sufficient planning process for senior center re-openings; and

WHEREAS: Seniors at sites that are not able to scale up quickly for re-opening risk being left out of the benefits of both partial service and full re-openings;

THEREFORE: Community Board 12 Manhattan urges Mayor Bill de Blasio, NYC DOHMH, and NYC DFTA to address re-opening senior centers as a matter of urgency and to engage senior center providers in the planning for immediate re-opening.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eleazar', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Eleazar Bueno
Chairperson

cc: 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