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Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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March 1, 2018

Hon. Joseph J. Lhota
Chairman MTA New York City Transit
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Hon. Andy Byford,
President, MTA NYC Transit
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Re: Closing of the IND Subway Station at the W. 163rd Street and request for Extended Bus Service to Serve Residents of that Area.

Dear Chairman Lhota:

At the General Meeting, Tuesday, February 27, 2018 Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed the following resolution with a vote of 34 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstention requesting that the MTA provide either shuttle bus service between the West 155th Street and West 168th Street stations or provide extended bus service on Amsterdam Avenue in both directions, especially during the late hours when no such service currently exists during the six month period in which the West 163rd Street station is shuttered and schedule a full presentation of the plans for the renovation of the West 163rd Street station at an upcoming meeting of the CB 12, M Traffic and Transportation Committee. Finally, Community Board 12, Manhattan also insists that the plan be revised to include accessibility by installing an elevator from the street level to the mezzanine and the platform. The proposed date of station closure is March 12, 2018.

Whereas: Community Board 12 - Manhattan (CB 12) has continuously requested the refurbishment of the MTA's West 163rd Street subway station served by the 'C' local line for many years; and

Whereas: On February 14, 2018, a contractor hired by the MTA made an unscheduled presentation to the board's Traffic and Transportation Committee about its final plans to renovate the West 163rd Street subway station for a period of six months starting only weeks later on March 12; and

Whereas: The extremely short notice provided to CB 12 of the imminent shutdown of this station was wholly inadequate. It did not allow the board to notify the affected residents and businesses in the community so they could learn about the plans firsthand and discuss what measures should be taken to ameliorate the inconvenience caused by the shutdown; and

Whereas: Community Board 12 - Manhattan is concerned that accessibility to the station is not included in the scope of this project and continues to believe that the renovation should result in making the station fully accessible; and

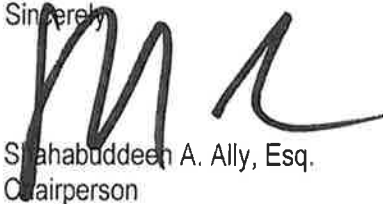
Whereas: The MTA has not planned for the neighborhood disruptions that will be caused by inadequate bus service that will not compensate for the loss of the subway service. This failure may pose public safety concerns in a high-crime corridor and will create undue hardships especially for seniors, parents and school-age children; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: Community Board 12 - Manhattan requests that the MTA provide either shuttle bus service between the West 155th Street and West 168th Street stations during the period in which the West 163rd Street station is shuttered, or provide extended bus service on Amsterdam Avenue in both directions, especially during the late hours when no such service currently exists; and be it further

Resolved: Community Board 12 - Manhattan requests that the MTA schedule a full presentation of the plans for the renovation of the West 163rd Street station at an upcoming meeting of the CB 12 Traffic and Transportation Committee that can be properly publicized to residents and businesses in the community and that it announce at such time how it intends to increase bus service to make up for the shutdown of the station for six months; and be it yet further

Resolved: Community Board 12 – Manhattan insists that the plan be revised to include accessibility by installing an elevator from the street level to the mezzanine and the platform.

Sincerely,



Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq.
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Gale Brewer, Borough President
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator
Hon. Marisol Alcantara, State Senator
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member
Hon. Alfred Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member
Hon. Victor Calise, Commissioner MOPD
Hon. Darryl C. Irick, President MTA Bus Company

Hon. Janno Lieber, President MTA Capital Construction
Capt. Kenneth Perez, CO - Transit District 3
Capt. Richard Brea, CO - 33rd Precinct
Joseph Nugent, Police Liaison NYCT
Karyn Ward, Station Supervisor MTA NYCT
Susannah Harrington, Director - Station Programs
Bill Montanile, MTA NYCT
Andrew Albert, Chair - Transit Riders Council/PCAC
Hon. Carl Heastie, Speaker NYS Assembly
Hon. Amy Paulin, Assembly Member
Raymond Porteus - Inspector, NYPD Transit Bureau
Thomas Ponella - Inspector NYPD Transit Bureau
Edith Prentiss
Tony Murphy The People's MTA