



Richard R. Lewis, Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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May 29th, 2019

Mayor, City of New York - Bill de Blasio
City Hall, New York, NY 10007

Hon. Fernando Cabrera
250 Broadway Suite 1725
New York, NY 10007

Re: Request for Community Board Baseline Budget Increases for FY 2020

Dear Mayor De Blasio and Council Member Cabrera:

At the General Meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2019, with a vote of 37 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention, Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed a resolution requesting that the Mayor either increase the baseline budget for all community boards to at least \$300,000 for FY 2020 or support another cash infusion equivalent to the one added in FY 2019 by the City Council.

Whereas, New York City has 59 Community Boards that serve as a significant point of contact for all residents and stakeholders – allowing them to directly and better engage with their city and state governments and recommend public policies on land use and zoning, housing and tenant protection, parks and cultural affairs, public safety and emergency services, elder care and health and environment issues, education, youth and career development, traffic and transportation, open data and freedom of information requests, lice sing, business and economic development, and immigrant affairs to name a few; and

Whereas, Community Boards not only bring together local New Yorkers with multiple government agencies but also real estate developers, landlords, hospitals; community based organizations ,legal services, applicants for licenses and permits as well as others; and

Whereas, The talents, state of the art office tools and digital communication platforms needed to fulfill our missions through the NYC Charter are strained or even overwhelmed by the resources of private entities and even government agencies through various unfunded mandates - requiring more and often unavailable board member's volunteer time; and

Whereas, Community Board budgets have not increased in five of the last six fiscal years, save city managerial/union contractual agreements and even that prevented their ability to maintain a full complement of competitive staff; and

Whereas, Approximately \$42,000 was made in FY2019 as a one-time funding infusion through the efforts of Councilmember's Fernando Cabrera as Chair of the Committee on Governmental Relations and the City Council's support with positive results, but even that had limitations and was not added to our baseline budget, **now therefore be it**

Mayor De Blasio

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Resolved, Community Board 12, Manhattan requests that the Mayor either increase the baseline budget in personnel services (PS) and other than personnel services (OTPS) for all community boards to at least \$300,000 for FY 2020, excluding office space rent for leasing so that all 59 community boards around the city can better serve their districts or the Mayor should support another cash infusion equivalent to the one added in FY 2019 by the City Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Richard Lewis', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Richard Lewis
Chairperson

cc: Gregory Faulker, Chief of Staff
Hon. Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Gale Brewer, Borough President
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman

Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member