



Eleazar Bueno, Chairperson  
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

## Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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March 24, 2022

Hon. Matthew C. Fraser  
Commissioner DOITT  
2 Metro Tech Center, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

### **Re: Resolution in Support of Creating a Citywide Searchable Resource Platform**

Dear Commissioner Fraser:

At the General Meeting, Tuesday, March 22, 2022, passed a resolution with a vote of 28 in favor, 4 opposed, 2 abstentions, 0 not voting calling upon the Manhattan Borough President's Office to work with the Mayor's office and the other Borough President are to initiate the creation of such a Citywide Searchable Resource Platform.

**Whereas**, there is a need for a public-facing solution to allow community members in their respective Community Districts to query resources relative to their needs and eligibility easily, and

**Whereas**, the Covid-19 pandemic has increased and compounded the needs of community members, and

**Whereas**, there is a disconnect between community members and existing resources, which may help them to subsist and better access agencies of government and organizations positioned to assist them, and

**Whereas**, the NYC.gov, the NYC311 websites, and the 311-call center provide a plethora of data but is difficult for users to navigate and narrow existing data to their specific demographic or catchment area in a timely fashion and does not include state and federal resources

**Whereas**, NYC is lauded as having one of the most robust Open Data policies in the world, there is a precedent set throughout various agencies and elected offices that call for broader use of the Open Data available, and

**Whereas**, the current "Community Board 12, Manhattan - Resource Directory" OCR (Optical Character Recognition) searchable PDF solution, which has been provided for the CD 12 district would and has required manual updating, did not include many existing resources, providers, or services and was last updated in July 2019, and

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**Whereas**, the infrastructure exists to allow for relevant data to be sourced and populated dynamically via existing APIs (Application Programming Interface) specific to each purview relative to the committees of CB12 of Manhattan, and

**Whereas**, a system can be developed which allows providers to submit new information about their programs/services and request changes to those services, and

**Whereas**, joining the various existing APIs would allow users to access significantly more comprehensive, relevant, and updated data for their needs in a user-friendly and multi-lingual format, and

**Whereas**, such a Database would also benefit all other Community Boards and their districts by allowing searches on federal, state, city, borough, and neighborhood levels, and

**Whereas**, such a database would also empower Community Board Members, Elected Offices and their liaisons, and City Agencies to be better allies to their communities and constituents, and

**Whereas**, Elected officials and agencies may have discretionary funds available for such an initiative.

**Be it Resolved that** Community Board 12 calls upon the Manhattan Borough President's Office to initiate a "citywide" program; this will require coordination with the Mayor's office and the four other Borough Presidents to work the Mayor's office and the other Borough Presidents to initiate the creation of such a Citywide Searchable Resource Platform and requests that the Manhattan Borough President's Office will confirm its commitment to this project to Community Board 12 by May 2, 2022.

Sincerely,



Eleazar Bueno  
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor  
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate  
Hon. Brad Lander, Comptroller  
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman

Hon. Cordell Cleare, State Senator  
Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator  
Hon. Alfred Taylor, Assembly Member  
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Council Member  
Hon. Shaun Abreu, Council Member