

COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD 12
Borough of Manhattan

The
City
of
New
York



711 West 168 Street, New York, New York 10032

December 20, 2000

Mr. Joseph B. Rose, Director
City Planning Commission
22 Read Street
New York, N.Y. 10007

Dear Mr. Rose:

The following resolution was passed by Community Board #12, Manhattan at its last General Meeting on December 19, 2000.

- Whereas: A proposed amendment to New York-Presbyterian's (NYP) Large Scale Community Facility Plan has come before Community Board 12, Manhattan (CB 12) for its review; and
- Whereas: CB 12 held four public meetings to hear and review the impact of the expansion projects, namely a new building for the Children's Hospital of New York, and another building that will house both an on-site commercial kitchen and a cardiac care center; and
- Whereas: At the hearings, NYP demonstrated the need for, and health care benefits of, the Children's Hospital, and gave assurances that it will continue to provide care to indigent children from the community, and explained the business-related need for the commercial kitchen and the heart center; and
- Whereas: Concerns were expressed about increased truck and car traffic from both the construction and operation of the commercial kitchen, children's hospital and heart center and the adverse impact on W. 165th Street and its intersections with Broadway, Ft. Washington Avenue, and Riverside Drive; the impact of the overflow traffic to adjacent areas of Broadway, north to W. 168 Street, and east to W. 166 Street and Amsterdam Avenue; and the impact on other arteries leading to interstate highways and the GW Bridge; and

- Whereas: Concerns were raised over the combined impact on quality of life in the community of the proposed projects with other large scale construction projects that have been recently completed, are underway or expected, such as the NYS Psychiatric Institute's new building and plans for its vacant building, NYP's garage expansion, its future plans for the Washington Heights Plaza Hotel complex on the garage site, the expansion of Columbia University's Biomedical Research Park, and other projects such as Alianza Dominicana's office building, VOA housing, and the development of the temporary 33rd Precinct site; and
- Whereas: Concerns were also expressed over the loss of street parking spaces and the removal of parking meters for private valet parking, and NYP's holding a groundbreaking event before the project was publicly approved; and
- Whereas: NYP's plans to hire 10 local residents for laborer jobs in the project, to give priority to local union residents when drawing from union halls, and to work with the building unions to create apprenticeships; and
- Whereas: NYP has voluntarily established goals equal to federal standards for minority contracting and equal employment opportunity in the construction of the facility; and
- Whereas: Concerns were expressed that the jobs and business commitments at this time were insufficient to ensure an acceptable level of local participation in the project's construction; and
- Whereas: Concerns were expressed with regard to the absence of a financial 's commitment to meet the MBE/WBE, EEO and local participation objectives or funding for an outreach-coordinator function within the project, to maximize community resident hiring and opportunities for local business; therefore

Be it

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan, agrees with the health and community benefits afforded by these facility improvements, and supports the modification to the Large Scale Community Facilities Plan, but forwards the following concerns, recommendations and comments to the NYC Planning Commission and New York-Presbyterian:

1. CB 12 has serious reservations about the traffic mitigation proposed, and is profoundly concerned that they are inadequate to relieve the traffic impact of the three projects and the loss of street parking to the community in an already congested area and, therefore, does not agree with, nor approve of, the proposed traffic mitigation efforts. CB12 calls upon New York Presbyterian to work with the CB 12's Task Force and Transportation Committee to develop an acceptable traffic mitigation proposal;
2. CB 12 calls for additional evaluations of the impact of the modification, which must be undertaken in coordination with other entities proposing to build in the vicinity. Furthermore, the evaluations should aim to adequately ascertain the traffic, air quality, and other pressures on housing availability and public amenities. CB 12 calls on NYC agencies to conduct a thorough review of these evaluations;

3. CB 12 finds that the specific commitments made to equal employment, community hiring and local business at this time are insufficient and calls on NYP to further develop their proposals, and to fund an effort to ensure maximum community employment and business participation in all aspects of the start-up, construction and operation of this project; and to incorporate the tax benefits and incentives that promote local hiring under Federal Empowerment Zone available to the site of the development projects. NYP should work with the CB 12's Task Force and Economic Development Committee to develop an acceptable level of jobs and contracting with local firms.
4. CB 12 urges NYP to set aside space for publicly-funded and community-based child care within the Children's Hospital or in the to-be-renovated Babies Hospital, and to undertake the improvement of its commercial stores fronts adjacent to the site along Broadway.

Be it further

Resolved: NYP must provide ongoing feedback and reports to the CB 12 Task Force and Standing Committees in relation to this modification plan and its components, particularly addressing the issues of traffic, jobs and business opportunities.

Sincerely,



William A. Garcia
Chair
Community Board #12, Manhattan

CC: Hon. Rudolph Giuliani, Mayor, New York City
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Alan Hevesi, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Mark Green, NYC Public Advocate
Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman-District 15
Hon. Olga Mendez, State Senator-District 28
Hon. David A. Paterson, State Senator-District 29
Hon. Eric Schneiderman, State Senator-District 30
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Assemblyman-District 71
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Assemblyman-District 72
Hon. Stanley Michels, Councilman-District 7
Hon. Guillermo Linares, Councilman-District 10

Roll Call:

In Favor

Anita Barberis
James Berlin
Emilia G. Cardona
Laurie T. Cohen
Fredericka Cuenca
Walther G. Delgado
Leslie Foster
William A. Garcia
Beatrice Hall
Herbert Harwitt
Soledad Hiciano
Joyce F. Holland
Robert C. Liebeskind
Elizabeth L. Ritter
Isidoro Martinez
Miguel Martinez
Luis H. Minier
Victor Morisete-Romero
Norma Nadien
Marcos Navarro
Dr. Pamela Palanque North
Julio Peguero
Zead Ramadan
Steven Rizick
Nelson Rojas
Maria Sierra
Barbara Smith-Ramos
Ricardo Ureña
Sandra Wachspress
Msgr. Gerald Walsh
Elouise Whitehurst

Opposed

Abstain

Manuel J. Mendez
Martha Pepin
Julissa Reynoso

Not Voting

Helen Morik

Total: 31 In Favor 0 Opposed

3 Abstain

1 Not Voting