



Community Board 12

Washington Heights & Inwood

711 West 168th Street – New York, NY 10032

Phone (212) 568-8500 Fax (212) 740-8197

Emails: – mancb12@verizon.net

Website: www.cb12m.org

December 22, 2006

Hon. Iris Weinshall
Commissioner
Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 35th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Mr. William M. Flynn
Chair
Public Service Commission
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223

Mr. Kevin Burke
President & CEO
Con Edison
4 Irving Place
New York, NY 10003

Re: Con Edison's Proposed M29 Transmission Line and Academy Substation Project

Dear Commissioner Weinshall, Mr. Flynn and Mr. Burke:

Community Board 12 passed this December 19th resolution with 41 members in favor and one not voting due to conflict regarding the proposed M29 Transmission Line and Academy Substation Project.

Whereas: Con Edison has proposed a \$215 million project involving the construction of a new M29 transmission line carrying 345 Kv of electricity from its Sprain Brook Substation in Yonkers to a new substation to be built at Academy Street and West 201st Street; and

Whereas: Community Board 12-Manhattan shares Con Edison's goals of upgrading its transmission system and increasing its power supply, and we are also concerned about improvements needed for the distribution system, especially since our community suffered through its own blackout in 1999 as well as the major Northeast blackout in 2003, and since three feeder cables failed and seven buildings lost power, including the Dyckman Community Center and the Dyckman Senior Center, during the heat wave last summer; and

Whereas: The proposed transmission line would follow a circuitous route for approximately 1.5 miles in Inwood, passing under property owned by New York-Presbyterian Hospital (NYPH) along the Harlem River at West 220th Street, south on Ninth Avenue, west on West 219th Street, south on Broadway, east on West 204th Street, south on Tenth Avenue and then east on West 201st Street to the site of the new substation; and

Whereas: Under this plan, streets would be excavated and the transmission line installed alongside P.S. 18 (Park Terrace Early Child School), P.S. 278 (Paula Hedbavny School), NYPH's Allen Pavilion, Good Shepherd Church and School, the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum, P.S./I.S. 176 (Haywood Burns School), P.S. 311 (Amistad Dual Language School), P.S. 314 (Muscota School), the proposed site of a new school at Sherman Avenue and West 204th Street (the former St. Matthew's Church and School) and the Dyckman Houses (a 1200-apartment complex) as well as many other residential buildings and businesses; and

Whereas: The new substation would be built on the site of Con Edison's old power generating plant, which has been declared a brown field because of contamination caused by that plant; and

Whereas: After a thorough review of Con Edison's application to the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) by Community Board 12 members, Martin Collins, board chair, sent a

detailed letter on August 7, 2006 to Con Edison with 57 questions seeking additional information about the project and raising various concerns about its impact on our community; and

Whereas: To ensure that its concerns are addressed by the PSC and Con Edison, Community Board 12 took the unprecedented step of becoming an active party in the PSC proceedings and has been represented by Mr. Collins and Isaiah Bing, assistant chair of the Health & Environment Committee, during this process; and

Whereas: As a result of Board 12's involvement, the following changes to this plan have been agreed to so far, among others:

- The existing Sherman Creek substation will be upgraded with two new 138 Kv step-down transformers and associated components that will be connected to our area feeders, enabling them to supply projected peak loads during two possible power interruptions. As a result, Washington Heights-Inwood will have first and second contingency backups, which will help prevent future blackouts and brownouts.
- Con Edison will recalculate its ten-year load forecast for the Washington Heights-Inwood community to take into account anticipated development projects and needed electrical load growth to ensure that it will be able to satisfy future demand.
- Con Edison shall inform all property and business owners, schools, houses of worship and the affected community at least five days before construction begins, and in advance of any unplanned weekend or holiday construction that may become necessary.
- The Community Board will be furnished with regular reports during the construction of the transmission line and the substation.
- No school, house of worship or business as well as residence "will be exposed to significant noise levels for an extended period." Con Edison will provide Community Board 12 and all active parties with noise mitigation reports.
- The effects on P.S. 5 (Ellen Lurie School) will be taken into account when determining acceptable noise levels produced by the new Academy Substation.
- An independent third party will be hired to serve as an environmental inspector to ensure that the entire project is constructed in a safe manner, including the removal of hazardous materials from the substation site.
- Con Edison and the PSC will make available multilingual personnel who will receive complaints and suggestions during the construction project.
- Con Edison agreed to give CB12 information about its fire safety and worst-case scenario plans; and

Whereas: There are still various unresolved issues that have been raised by Community Board 12 and others, such as the following:

- It would be far preferable to have the transmission line run straight down Tenth Avenue from West 218th Street rather than use Broadway, the sole north-south thoroughfare connecting Inwood to The Bronx. Tenth Avenue would be a more direct and less disruptive route.
- Another option previously rejected by Con Edison would be to bring the transmission line over from The Bronx at West 208th Street and then down Ninth Avenue to the new substation. That also would be clearly preferable to the proposed route.
- Con Edison should be responsible for improving Academy Street on the south side of the substation so that it can be used as a public street once again. Con Edison has closed it off to the public for about 100 years.
- Likewise Con Edison should improve the northern shoreline of Sherman Creek so that it can be used for picnicking, fishing and other passive recreation uses since public access to this area also has been restricted by Con Edison for about 100 years.

- Con Edison should provide additional waterfront access by improving the east side of its property along the Harlem River in conjunction with the city's goal of a promenade linking the five street-end parks being constructed by the Parks Department.
- Con Edison should endow a maintenance fund for these new waterfront parks and the Sherman Creek shoreline.
- Con Edison must ensure security enhancements for the Academy Substation and its adjacent Sherman Creek properties.
- Con Edison should agree to replace any trees or shrubs removed as a result of transmission line project.
- Con Edison and CB12 should request the PSC's approval to grant discount rates to the businesses and residents directly affected by the project; and

Whereas: The PSC proceedings are at a crucial stage, at which the Community Board 12 representatives and others are being asked to reach an agreement concerning Con Edison's application; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That Community Board 12-Manhattan endorses its representatives' efforts to reduce the negative impacts and to increase the potential benefits of Con Edison's M29 transmission line project, including the construction of the new Academy Substation, and to improve the interconnecting distribution system to Washington Heights-Inwood; and be it further

Resolved: That Community Board 12-Manhattan urges the New York State Public Service Commission to insist that Con Edison select a more direct and less disruptive route through Inwood, such as the Tenth Avenue or West 208th Street and Ninth Avenue alternatives referred to above; and be it further

Resolved: That Community Board 12-Manhattan urges the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) to revise the Tenth Avenue reconstruction project now underway to accommodate the Con Edison transmission line if no other alternative is deemed feasible; and be it further

Resolved: That Community Board 12-Manhattan urges DOT, in the event that it rejects the above request, to limit construction activities along Broadway to 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on weekdays to minimize the impact on traffic and local businesses; and be it further

Resolved: That Community Board 12-Manhattan urges our local elected officials to work with the board to ensure that the points we have raised are agreed to by the PSC, Con Edison and DOT; and be it further

Resolved: That Community Board 12-Manhattan strongly urges Con Edison to maintain and operate at all times a first-class distribution network for the Washington Heights-Inwood community, and to meet with the PSC, local elected officials and Community Board 12 annually to assess the system reliability of the Washington Heights-Inwood distribution system.

Sincerely,



Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Borough President Scott Stringer
Governor George Pataki
Governor-elect Eliot Spitzer
Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Congressman Charles Rangel
State Senator Eric Schneiderman
Assembly Member Adriano Espaillat
Assembly Member Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Miguel Martinez
Congressman Eliot Engel
State Senator Jeffrey Klein
Assembly Member Richard L. Brodsky, Committee Chair on Corporations, Authorities & Commissions
Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz
Assembly Member J. Gary Pretlow
Council Member Oliver Koppell
Yonkers Mayor Philip A. Amicone
Yonkers Council President Chuck Lesnick
Yonkers Council Majority Leader Patricia D. McDow
Yonkers Council Member Dee Barbato
Yonkers Council Member Liam J. McLaughlin
Westchester County Legislator Bernice Spreckman
Westchester County Legislator Gordon Burrows
Bronx Community Board 8 Chair Anthony J. Cassino
Bronx Community Board 8 Environment & Sanitation Committee Chair Saul Scheinbach
Hon. William Bouteiller, NYS Department of Public Service
Hon. Michele L. Phillips, NYS Department of Public Service
Ms. Jaclyn Brilling, Secretary, NYS Department of Public Service
Hon. Jeffrey L. Riback, General Counsel, Con Edison
Mr. David Gmach, Director of Manhattan Public Affairs, Con Edison
All Active Parties (as of 12/22/06) served by e-mail



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December 22, 2006

Ms. Meenakshi Srinivasan
Chair
Board of Standards & Appeals
40 Rector Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10006

Re: Extending Term of Zoning Variance for 458 West 166th Street Parking Lot

Dear Chair Srinivasan:

Community Board 12 passed this December 19th resolution with 38 in favor, two abstained and recommended the BSA extend the term of the zoning variance for 458 West 166th Street.

Whereas, on October 12, 2006 an application (the "Application") was submitted to the NYC Board of Standards and Appeals ("BSA") by Sheldon Lobel P.C. (the "Applicant") on behalf of Sand Realty Group, Inc. (the "Owner") for an extension to the term of an existing zoning variance for the parking lot located at 458 West 166th Street, Block 2111/Lots 53 - 55, 57, 71-73 (the "Property"); and

Whereas, the Property is an open parking lot of approximately 18,350 square feet that accommodates 71 cars and has an entrance that is approximately 185 feet from the corner of Edgecombe Avenue and West 165th Street; and

Whereas, the Property is defined by NYC zoning as a public parking lot as it does not belong to any adjacent residential building; and

Whereas, public parking lots do not conform with the R7-2 zoning district use regulations for the area and therefore require a zoning variance; and

Whereas, the Property was originally granted a zoning variance by BSA in 2001 (Calendar No.: 30-00-BZ) that had a five-year term which expired in 2006; and

Whereas, a Public Hearing was held by the Land Use Committee on December 13, 2006 to consider the Application;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that Community Board 12-Manhattan supports the extension to the term of the zoning variance for the Property requested in the Application; and

Be It Further Resolved, that Community Board 12-Manhattan recommends that the BSA approval be for a term not longer than five years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Collins", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Martin Collins
Chair

Martin Collins, Chairman

Charles DeFino, District Manager

Cc: Borough President Scott Stringer
Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Congressman Charles Rangel
State Senator Eric Schneiderman
Assembly Member Adriano Espaillat
Assembly Member Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Miguel Martinez
Sheldon Lobel P.C.
Sand Realty Group, Inc.



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December 22, 2006

Hon. Charles Rangel
Congressman
163 West 125th Street
New York, NY 10025

Hon. Scott Stringer
Borough President
One Centre Street
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Miguel Martinez
Council Member
601 West 174th Street
New York, NY 10033

Re: Resolution regarding the Complete Renovation & Re-opening of the High Bridge

Dear Congressman Rangel, Borough President Stringer & Council Member Martinez:

Community Board 12 passed this December 19th resolution for the complete renovation and re-opening of the High Bridge with 40 members in favors and one not voting due to conflict.

Whereas: The High Bridge, built in 1848, was an architectural marvel and engineering feat of its time, and is an historical treasure that should be restored to its former glory as a tourist attraction and a "Wonder of the Modern World"; and,

Whereas: A fully restored High Bridge would provide an excellent recreational resource and economic stimulus for Upper Manhattan and its neighboring Bronx community across the river; and,

Whereas: A re-opened High Bridge would link two communities – the Highbridge sections of Manhattan and of the Bronx – now divided by a river; and,

Whereas: The High Bridge could provide another vital egress from Manhattan in case of an emergency; and

Whereas: Community Board 12, Manhattan has ranked the rehabilitation and re-opening of the High Bridge as its #22 capital budget priority for FY '08; and,

Whereas: According to a detailed structural analysis of the bridge recently completed by the City's Department of Transportation, approximately \$20-30 million is needed to re-open the High Bridge, and approximately \$60 million is needed to restore it fully (exclusive of approaches and access paths); and

Whereas: Congressman José Serrano has obtained \$5 million in Federal transportation funds and an application for another \$7.2 million in Federal transportation funds is pending, both of which allocations require a minimum 25% local match; now, therefore be it

Resolved: That Community Board 12, Manhattan expresses its continued support of the City's efforts to re-open the High Bridge, and urges the agencies involved, all of our elected officials, and the leadership of every major institution on both sides of the Harlem River to bring every possible resource to bear so that the High Bridge renovation might be fully completed at the earliest possible date; and, be it further

Resolved: That Community Board 12, Manhattan calls upon Councilmember Miguel Martinez to allocate at least \$625,000 through the City Council to provide Manhattan's half of the required local match of the \$5 million Federal allocation; and, be it further

Resolved: That Community Board 12, Manhattan calls upon Borough President Scott Stringer to allocate at least \$900,000 to provide Manhattan's half of the required local match of the pending \$7.2 million Federal request; and be it further

Resolved: That Community Board 12, Manhattan calls upon Congressman Charles Rangel to identify and secure additional federal resources to ensure the full funding of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Collins", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Mayor Michael Bloomberg
State Senator Eric Schneiderman
Assembly Member Adriano Espaillat
Assembly Member Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Council Member Robert Jackson
Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion
State Senator Jose M. Serrano
Congressman Jose E. Serrano
Assembly Member Aurelia Greene
Council Member Helen Foster
Department of Transportation Commissioner Iris Weinshall
Department of Transportation Borough Commissioner Margaret Forgiione
Department of Transportation Deputy Borough Commissioner Maurice Bruet
Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Emily Lloyd
Department of Parks & Recreation Commissioner Adrian Benepe
Department of Parks & Recreation Borough Commissioner William Castro
Department of Parks & Recreation Office of Interagency Coordination Ellen MacNow
Director of Northern Manhattan Parks Jane Schachet
High Bridge Catalyst Coordinator Joseph Sanchez



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December 22, 2006

Hon. Christine Quinn
City Council Speaker
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Resolution in Support of City Council Intro 199- "The Traffic Information & Relief Bill"

Dear Speaker Quinn:

Community Board 12 unanimously passed this December 19th resolution with 40 members in favor.

WHEREAS traffic congestion in New York City is steadily growing, hindering movement of public buses, endangering pedestrians, creating more air and noise pollution that compromises people's well-being and threatens their health, as studies show, with increased risk of illnesses like asthma, diabetes, cancer and heart disease, and costing New Yorkers extensive time loss and unnecessary fuel consumption (2003 figures show an average of \$6.78 billion worth of time lost and 198 million gallons of fuel wasted); and

WHEREAS upzoning, new development, and in the next two decades an estimated one million more New Yorkers will increase travel demand, further clog our streets and exacerbate the City's traffic problems; and

WHEREAS a comprehensive base of information and system of analysis is needed to understand and evaluate existing traffic conditions, weigh alternative solutions and establish a more effective balance of transportation modes that can better serve the City's needs for more efficient traffic flow, better performing streets, increased public transit use, and an improved quality of life; and

WHEREAS New York City Council Intro 199 ("The Traffic Information and Relief Bill") calls for provision by the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) of detailed information on the location and nature of traffic congestion and other traffic-related problems in the City, to properly analyze and address them on both micro and macro levels and to devise solutions through an open public process that allow for modal flexibility and innovations such as pricing, design and regulatory changes, as well as for the establishment of performance measures and targets to achieve and assess these objectives; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED that CB12 Manhattan supports the passage of New York City Council Intro 199 ("The Traffic Information and Relief Bill") and looks forward to working with the New York City Council and DOT to implement its provisions; and, be it further

RESOLVED that CB12 Manhattan recommends the New York City Council amend Intro 199 to promulgate reporting of all data by Community Boards.

Sincerely,

Martin Collins
Chair

Martin Collins, Chairman

Charles DeFino, District Manager

By Council Members Brewer, Comrie, Foster, James, Mark-Viverito, Palma, Recchia Jr., Sanders Jr., Seabrook, Vacca, Vann, Mendez, Gerson and Nelson

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to modifying department of transportation performance targets and indicators towards the goal of reducing traffic congestion citywide.

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Declaration of legislative findings and intent. In the City of New York, the Department of Transportation currently measures surface transportation performance through an array of output measures that assess activity instead of outcome measures that assess impact and effectiveness. Examples of "output" measures currently tracked by the Department include the number of traffic lights repaired and the number of potholes filled. While such indicators do have implications about improvements in traffic flow and the safety of motorists and pedestrians, they have limitations in terms of monitoring and evaluating the types of broader transportation policy issues facing the City of New York. This legislation tries to address this issue by requiring performance objectives ("targets") and performance measures ("indicators") that can inform comprehensive policy solutions to problems such as traffic congestion and pollution.

§2. Subchapter three of chapter one of title nineteen of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding new section 19-180 to read as follows:

§19-180 Performance targets and indicators. a. The department shall develop and monitor performance targets and respective indicators with the aim of assessing and reducing the amount of traffic citywide and within each borough.

b. Such performance targets and indicators shall be developed with the aim of reducing commute time citywide; reducing household exposure to roadway emissions, in consultation with the department of environmental protection and the department of health; reducing the proportion of driving to the central business districts and increasing the proportion of walking, biking, and the use of mass transit to the central business districts; increasing the availability of on-street parking; increasing the efficient movement of commercial traffic; and optimizing to no higher than full capacity the usage of existing transportation infrastructure.

c. A database containing such performance targets and indicators shall be completed no later than ninety days following the effective date of this section.

d. The performance targets and indicators shall be measured and reported citywide and by borough by the department in a written report to the council and the mayor on January 15 of each year with information covering the period of January through June, July through December, and the entire 12-month period of the prior calendar year. The performance targets and indicators shall also be submitted by the department in a written report to the council and the mayor on July 15 of each year with information covering the period of January through June of the current calendar year. The first written report shall be submitted within one hundred twenty days of the completion of the database and shall cover the first 90-day period.

e. Such reports shall be made available on the department's official website within seven days of each such submission required pursuant to subdivision d of this section.

f. For the purposes of this section the following terms shall be defined as follows:

1. "Performance indicator" shall mean a measurement of a performance target through statistical data.
2. "Performance target" shall mean a goal set to meet an objective expressed in terms of quantitative increase or decrease in comparison to a prior period of time.
3. "Full capacity" shall mean a quantity no greater than can be accommodated by a road, street, tunnel, bridge, highway, or other infrastructures according to standards set by the city or state of New York.

§2. This local law shall take effect immediately upon its enactment into law. RR LS #141 3/14/06

Cc: Borough President Scott Stringer
Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Congressman Charles Rangel
State Senator Eric Schneiderman
Assembly Member Adriano Espaillat
Assembly Member Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Miguel Martinez
Council Member John C. Liu, Transportation Committee Chair
Council Member Gale A. Brewer
Council Member Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Council Member Helen D. Foster
Council Member Alan J. Gerson
Council Member Letitia James
Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito
Council Member Michael C. Nelson
Council Member Annabel Palma
Council Member Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Council Member James Sanders, Jr.
Council Larry B. Seabrook
Council Member James Vacca
Council Member Albert Vann
Council Member Rosie Mendez



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December 22, 2006

Hon. Christine Quinn
City Council Speaker
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Co-naming West 160th Street between St. Nicholas & Edgecombe Avenues "Count Basie Place"

Dear Speaker Quinn:

Community Board 12 unanimously passed this December 19th resolution with 40 members in favor.

Whereas: Count (William) Basie, Pianist, Composer, and Band Leader was born August 12, 1904, died April 26, 1984, was a true member of music royalty in the 20th Century; and,

Whereas: His spare, clean keyboard style and supple rhythmic drive made his Orchestra one of the most influential groups of the Big Band era. He was, along with Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman, among the pre-eminent band leaders of the Big Band era in the 1930's and 1940's. More than any other, Mr. Basie's band was the epitome of Swing: Jazz that moves with a built-in flowing intensity. His masterful and elegant piano style was an exquisite realized condensation of the "Stride" style of Fats Waller and James P. Johnson with whom he got his start as a young man; and,

Whereas: Count Basie was unostentatious man, whose presence was nonetheless a vital factor in directing towards excellence his own band or any other group of musicians with whom he played; and,

Whereas: Count Basie was showered with many awards and much recognition while he was alive, it is past time for our community to recognize and honor our neighbor who lived for a time at 555 Edgecombe Avenue at 160th Street; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That Community Board 12, Manhattan supports the co-naming of West 160th Street between St. Nicholas and Edgecombe Avenues as "Count Basie Place."

Sincerely,

Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Borough President Scott Stringer
Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Miguel Martinez

Biography of William "Count" Basie, Courtesy of [Wikipedia.com](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Count_Basie).

William "Count" Basie was born in Red Bank, New Jersey to Harvey Lee Basie, and Lillian Ann Childs and lived on Mechanic Street. He had a brother, LeRoy Basie. His father worked as coachman for a wealthy family. After automobiles replaced horses, his father became a groundskeeper and handyman for several families in the area. His mother took in laundry, and was Basie's first piano teacher when he was a child. He started out to be a drummer. But the obvious talents of another young Red Bank drummer, Sonny Greer, who was Duke Ellington's drummer from 1919 to 1951, discouraged young Basie and he switched to piano. While he was in his late teens, he gravitated to Harlem, where he encountered Fats Waller who he was taught by informally. The Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank was named in his honor.

Basie toured the Theater Owners Bookers Association (T.O.B.A.) vaudeville circuit, starting in 1924, as a soloist and accompanist to blues singers. His touring took him to Kansas City, Missouri, where he met many jazz musicians in the area. In 1928 he joined Walter Page's Blue Devils, and the following year became the pianist with the Bennie Moten band based in Kansas City. It was at this time that he began to call himself "Count" Basie.

He started his own band in 1934, but eventually returned to Moten's band. After Moten died in 1935, the band unsuccessfully attempted to stay together. Basie formed a new band, which included many Moten alumni. At the end of 1936 he moved his band from Kansas City. Firstly they honed their repertoire at a long engagement at a Chicago club. In that city in October 1936 members of the band participated in a recording session which producer John Hammond later described as "the only perfect, completely perfect recording session I've ever had anything to do with". By the end of 1936 they began playing in New York City where the Count Basie Orchestra remained until 1950.

Basie's music was characterized by his trademark "jumping" beat and the contrapuntal accents of his own piano. Basie also showcased some of the best blues singers of the era: Billie Holiday, Jimmy Rushing, Big Joe Turner, Helen Humes, and Joe Williams. More importantly, Count Basie was a highly successful band-leader who was able to hold onto some of the greatest jazz musicians of the 1930s and early 1940s. He was also able to hire great arrangers that knew how to use the band's abilities, like Eddie Durham and Jimmy Mundy.

The big band era appeared to be at an end, but Basie reformed his as a 16-piece orchestra in 1952 and led it until his death. Basie remained faithful to the Kansas City Jazz style and helped keep jazz alive with his distinctive piano playing. By the mid 1950s, the Basie Band had become one of the preeminent backing big bands for the finest jazz vocalists of the time. In 1942 Basie moved to Queens New York with Catherine Morgan after being married for a few years. He appeared as himself (along with his band) in the Jerry Lewis film *Cinderfella* (1960).

Frank Sinatra had a fruitful relationship with Basie. 1963's *Sinatra-Basie* and 1964's *It Might As Well Be Swing* (the latter arranged by Quincy Jones) are two of the highest points at the peak of Sinatra's artistry. Jones provided the punchy arrangements for the Basie band on Sinatra's biggest selling album, the live *Sinatra at the Sands*.

Count Basie died of pancreatic cancer in Hollywood, California on April 26, 1984 at the age of seventy-nine.

Cc:

Borough President Scott Stringer

Mayor Michael Bloomberg

Council Member Robert Jackson

Council Member Miguel Martinez



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December 22, 2006

Hon. Christine Quinn
City Council Speaker
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Co-naming Edgecombe Avenue between West 155th and 171st Streets "Paul Robeson Boulevard"

Dear Speaker Quinn:

Community Board 12 unanimously passed this December 19th resolution with 40 members in favor.

Whereas: Paul Robeson, born April 9, 1898 and died January 23, 1976 was an athlete, lawyer, scholar, writer, linguist, orator, actor, concert singer, artist, civil and human rights activist, and transcendent and visceral presence on the world stage; and,

Whereas: Paul Robeson burst upon the fertile scene of the Harlem Renaissance as a pre-eminent multi-talent among many other superb lights. Possessor of a law degree, he left that profession behind because of his indelible commitment to human equality and his abhorrence of racial discrimination. He made a conscious decision that his world-class talents as an actor and singer would better serve his people as the vehicle to develop a consciousness in the American psyche that African-Americans' talents and creativity are more than worthy of recognition and should be on an equal playing field in the cultural landscape; and,

Whereas: He suffered greatly for his steadfast commitment to the great cause that he believed in, the cause of full equality for his people and all oppressed peoples around the world. In doing so he became a symbol for us all to transcend our suffering for a cause worth believing in; and,

Whereas: A true "Renaissance Man" and a giant of the Twentieth Century whose life has affected all of our lives, Paul Robeson was also a great Harlemiter and a member of our community; and,

Whereas: The Paul Robeson Residence from 1939 until 1941 was located at 555 Edgecombe Avenue and is recognized as a National Historic Landmark; and,

Whereas: Paul Robeson and his family then moved to a brownstone on 16 Jumel Terrace, where they lived from 1955 until 1965; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That Community Board 12, Manhattan supports the co-naming of Edgecombe Avenue between West 155th and 171st Streets as "Paul Robeson Boulevard."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Collins", written over a horizontal line.

Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Borough President Scott Stringer
Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Miguel Martinez



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Commissioner
Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 35th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Mr. William M. Flynn
Chair
Public Service Commission
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223

Mr. Kevin Burke
President & CEO
Con Edison
4 Irving Place
New York, NY 10003

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Whereas: Community Board 12-Manhattan shares Con Edison's goals of upgrading its transmission system and increasing its power supply, and we are also concerned about improvements needed for the distribution system, especially since our community suffered through its own blackout in 1999 as well as the major Northeast blackout in 2003, and since three feeder cables failed and seven buildings lost power, including the Dyckman Community Center and the Dyckman Senior Center, during the heat wave last summer; and

Whereas: The proposed transmission line would follow a circuitous route for approximately 1.5 miles in Inwood, passing under property owned by New York-Presbyterian Hospital (NYPH) along the Harlem River at West 220th Street, south on Ninth Avenue, west on West 219th Street, south on Broadway, east on West 204th Street, south on Tenth Avenue and then east on West 201st Street to the site of the new substation; and

Whereas: Under this plan, streets would be excavated and the transmission line installed alongside P.S. 18 (Park Terrace Early Child School), P.S. 278 (Paula Hedbavny School), NYPH's Allen Pavilion, Good Shepherd Church and School, the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum, P.S./I.S. 176 (Haywood Burns School), P.S. 311 (Amistad Dual Language School), P.S. 314 (Muscota School), the proposed site of a new school at Sherman Avenue and West 204th Street (the former St. Matthew's Church and School) and the Dyckman Houses (a 1200-apartment complex) as well as many other residential buildings and businesses; and

Whereas: The new substation would be built on the site of Con Edison's old power generating plant, which has been declared a brown field because of contamination caused by that plant; and

Whereas: After a thorough review of Con Edison's application to the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) by Community Board 12 members, Martin Collins, board chair, sent a

detailed letter on August 7, 2006 to Con Edison with 57 questions seeking additional information about the project and raising various concerns about its impact on our community; and

Whereas: To ensure that its concerns are addressed by the PSC and Con Edison, Community Board 12 took the unprecedented step of becoming an active party in the PSC proceedings and has been represented by Mr. Collins and Isaiah Bing, assistant chair of the Health & Environment Committee, during this process; and

Whereas: As a result of Board 12's involvement, the following changes to this plan have been agreed to so far, among others:

- The existing Sherman Creek substation will be upgraded with two new 138 Kv step-down transformers and associated components that will be connected to our area feeders, enabling them to supply projected peak loads during two possible power interruptions. As a result, Washington Heights-Inwood will have first and second contingency backups, which will help prevent future blackouts and brownouts.
- Con Edison will recalculate its ten-year load forecast for the Washington Heights-Inwood community to take into account anticipated development projects and needed electrical load growth to ensure that it will be able to satisfy future demand.
- Con Edison shall inform all property and business owners, schools, houses of worship and the affected community at least five days before construction begins, and in advance of any unplanned weekend or holiday construction that may become necessary.
- The Community Board will be furnished with regular reports during the construction of the transmission line and the substation.
- No school, house of worship or business as well as residence "will be exposed to significant noise levels for an extended period." Con Edison will provide Community Board 12 and all active parties with noise mitigation reports.
- The effects on P.S. 5 (Ellen Lurie School) will be taken into account when determining acceptable noise levels produced by the new Academy Substation.
- An independent third party will be hired to serve as an environmental inspector to ensure that the entire project is constructed in a safe manner, including the removal of hazardous materials from the substation site.
- Con Edison and the PSC will make available multilingual personnel who will receive complaints and suggestions during the construction project.
- Con Edison agreed to give CB12 information about its fire safety and worst-case scenario plans; and

Whereas: There are still various unresolved issues that have been raised by Community Board 12 and others, such as the following:

- It would be far preferable to have the transmission line run straight down Tenth Avenue from West 218th Street rather than use Broadway, the sole north-south thoroughfare connecting Inwood to The Bronx. Tenth Avenue would be a more direct and less disruptive route.
- Another option previously rejected by Con Edison would be to bring the transmission line over from The Bronx at West 208th Street and then down Ninth Avenue to the new substation. That also would be clearly preferable to the proposed route.
- Con Edison should be responsible for improving Academy Street on the south side of the substation so that it can be used as a public street once again. Con Edison has closed it off to the public for about 100 years.
- Likewise Con Edison should improve the northern shoreline of Sherman Creek so that it can be used for picnicking, fishing and other passive recreation uses since public access to this area also has been restricted by Con Edison for about 100 years.

- Con Edison should provide additional waterfront access by improving the east side of its property along the Harlem River in conjunction with the city's goal of a promenade linking the five street-end parks being constructed by the Parks Department.
- Con Edison should endow a maintenance fund for these new waterfront parks and the Sherman Creek shoreline.
- Con Edison must ensure security enhancements for the Academy Substation and its adjacent Sherman Creek properties.
- Con Edison should agree to replace any trees or shrubs removed as a result of transmission line project.
- Con Edison and CB12 should request the PSC's approval to grant discount rates to the businesses and residents directly affected by the project; and

Whereas: The PSC proceedings are at a crucial stage, at which the Community Board 12 representatives and others are being asked to reach an agreement concerning Con Edison's application; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That Community Board 12-Manhattan endorses its representatives' efforts to reduce the negative impacts and to increase the potential benefits of Con Edison's M29 transmission line project, including the construction of the new Academy Substation, and to improve the interconnecting distribution system to Washington Heights-Inwood; and be it further

Resolved: That Community Board 12-Manhattan urges the New York State Public Service Commission to insist that Con Edison select a more direct and less disruptive route through Inwood, such as the Tenth Avenue or West 208th Street and Ninth Avenue alternatives referred to above; and be it further

Resolved: That Community Board 12-Manhattan urges the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) to revise the Tenth Avenue reconstruction project now underway to accommodate the Con Edison transmission line if no other alternative is deemed feasible; and be it further

Resolved: That Community Board 12-Manhattan urges DOT, in the event that it rejects the above request, to limit construction activities along Broadway to 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on weekdays to minimize the impact on traffic and local businesses; and be it further

Resolved: That Community Board 12-Manhattan urges our local elected officials to work with the board to ensure that the points we have raised are agreed to by the PSC, Con Edison and DOT; and be it further

Resolved: That Community Board 12-Manhattan strongly urges Con Edison to maintain and operate at all times a first-class distribution network for the Washington Heights-Inwood community, and to meet with the PSC, local elected officials and Community Board 12 annually to assess the system reliability of the Washington Heights-Inwood distribution system.

Sincerely,



Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Borough President Scott Stringer
Governor George Pataki
Governor-elect Eliot Spitzer
Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Congressman Charles Rangel
State Senator Eric Schneiderman
Assembly Member Adriano Espaillat
Assembly Member Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Miguel Martinez
Congressman Eliot Engel
State Senator Jeffrey Klein
Assembly Member Richard L. Brodsky, Committee Chair on Corporations, Authorities & Commissions
Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz
Assembly Member J. Gary Pretlow
Council Member Oliver Koppell
Yonkers Mayor Philip A. Amicone
Yonkers Council President Chuck Lesnick
Yonkers Council Majority Leader Patricia D. McDow
Yonkers Council Member Dee Barbato
Yonkers Council Member Liam J. McLaughlin
Westchester County Legislator Bernice Spreckman
Westchester County Legislator Gordon Burrows
Bronx Community Board 8 Chair Anthony J. Cassino
Bronx Community Board 8 Environment & Sanitation Committee Chair Saul Scheinbach
Hon. William Bouteiller, NYS Department of Public Service
Hon. Michele L. Phillips, NYS Department of Public Service
Ms. Jaclyn Brilling, Secretary, NYS Department of Public Service
Hon. Jeffrey L. Riback, General Counsel, Con Edison
Mr. David Gmach, Director of Manhattan Public Affairs, Con Edison
All Active Parties (as of 12/22/06) served by e-mail



Community Board 12

Washington Heights & Inwood

711 West 168th Street – New York, NY 10032

Phone (212) 568-8500 Fax (212) 740-8197

Emails: – mancb12@verizon.net

Website: www.cb12m.org

December 22, 2006

Hon. Daniel B. Boyle
Chairman
New York State Liquor Authority
80 S. Swan Street
Albany, NY 12210-8002

**Re: Express Flowers Inc.
2081 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10032**

Dear Chairman Boyle:

Community Board 12 passed this December 19th resolution with 38 in favor, one opposed, one abstained and recommended the SLA grant Express Flowers Inc. a new Grocery Store Beer-Wine Product license.

Whereas: Community Board 12's (CB12) Economic Development Committee met on December 5, 2006 with Guillermo Gomez, Owner of Express Flowers Inc. at 2081 Amsterdam Avenue to consider their new Grocery Store Beer-Wine Product application to the State Liquor Authority (SLA) and to make a recommendation to the SLA in accordance with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law (ABC Law); and

Whereas: Guillermo Gomez, Owner of Express Flowers Inc. at 2081 Amsterdam Avenue, stated that they will be open 7 days a week , 9:00am-9:00pm and will have two employees; and

Whereas: Two-thirds of this establishment will be a grocery store; and

Whereas: The other third of his business will be to sell flowers in the community; and

Whereas: The 33rd Precinct had no known complaints; now, therefore

Be It Resolved: Community Board 12 recommends that the SLA grant Express Flowers Inc. at 2081 Amsterdam Avenue for a new Grocery Store Beer-Wine Product license.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Collins', is written over a horizontal line.

Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Borough President Scott Stringer
Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Congressman Charles Rangel
State Senator Eric Schneiderman
Assembly Member Adriano Espaillat
Assembly Member Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Miguel Martinez
Commissioner Lawrence J. Gedda, SLA
Commissioner Noreen Healey, SLA
Deputy Commissioner Fred J. Gioffre, SLA
Chief Executive Officer Joshua B. Toas, Esq., SLA
Guillermo Gomez, Owner, Express Flowers Inc.



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December 22, 2006

Hon. Daniel B. Boyle
Chairman
New York State Liquor Authority
80 S. Swan Street
Albany, NY 12210-8002

**Re: New St. Nicholas Avenue Fish Market
1601 St. Nicholas Avenue
New York, NY 10040**

Dear Chairman Boyle:

Community Board 12 passed this December 19th resolution with 37 in favor, two opposed, one abstained and recommended the SLA grant the New St. Nicholas Ave. Fish Market a new Restaurant Wine license.

Whereas: Community Board 12's (CB12) Economic Development Committee met December 5, 2006 with Zhi Lin, Owner of New St. Nicholas Avenue Fish Market at 1601 St. Nicholas Ave, to consider their new Restaurant Wine application to the New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) and to make a recommendation to the SLA in accordance with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law (ABC Law); and

Whereas: Zhi Lin, Owner of New St. Nicholas Avenue Fish Market at 1601 St. Nicholas Ave, stated the business is open seven days a week 8:30am-11:00pm and has five employees, and

Whereas: Zhi Lin has other establishments in the community that are well-respected; and

Whereas: The 34th Precinct had no known complaints; now, therefore

Be It Resolved: Community Board 12 recommends the SLA grant the New St. Nicholas Avenue Fish Market at 1601 St. Nicholas Avenue a new Restaurant Wine license.

Sincerely,

Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Borough President Scott Stringer
Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Congressman Charles Rangel
State Senator Eric Schneiderman
Assembly Member Adriano Espaillat
Assembly Member Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Miguel Martinez
Commissioner Lawrence J. Gedda, SLA
Commissioner Noreen Healey, SLA
Deputy Commissioner Fred J. Gioffre, SLA
Chief Executive Officer Joshua B. Toas, Esq., SLA
Zhi Lin, Owner, New St. Nicholas Avenue Fish Market



Community Board 12

Washington Heights & Inwood

711 West 168th Street – New York, NY 10032

Phone (212) 568-8500 Fax (212) 740-8197

Emails: – mancb12@verizon.net

Website: www.cb12m.org

December 22, 2006

Hon. Daniel B. Boyle
Chairman
New York State Liquor Authority
80 S. Swan Street
Albany, NY 12210-8002

**Re: La Estufa Inc.
 5025 Broadway
 New York, NY 10034**

Dear Chairman Boyle:

Community Board 12 passed this December 19th resolution with 38 in favor, one opposed, one abstained and recommended the SLA grant La Estufa Inc. a new Restaurant Wine license.

Whereas: Community Board 12's (CB12) Economic Development Committee met December 5, 2006 with Alex Torres, Owner of La Estufa Inc. at 5025 Broadway to consider their new Restaurant Wine application to the New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) and to make a recommendation to the SLA in accordance with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law (ABC Law); and

Whereas: Alex Torres, Owner of La Estufa Inc. at 5025 Broadway, stated that they will be open 7 days a week from 6am-9pm and will have 6-7 employees; and

Whereas: They will serve an organic cuisine with mainly vegan dishes, and

Whereas: The 34th Precinct had no known complaints; now, therefore

Be It Resolved: Community Board 12 recommends that the SLA grant La Estufa Inc. at 5025 Broadway a new Restaurant Wine license.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Collins".

Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Borough President Scott Stringer
Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Congressman Charles Rangel
State Senator Eric Schneiderman
Assembly Member Adriano Espaillat
Assembly Member Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Miguel Martinez
Commissioner Lawrence J. Gedda, SLA
Commissioner Noreen Healey, SLA
Deputy Commissioner Fred J. Gioffre, SLA
Chief Executive Officer Joshua B. Toas, Esq., SLA
Alex Torres, Owner, La Estufa Inc.



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December 22, 2006

Hon. Daniel B. Boyle
Chairman
New York State Liquor Authority
80 S. Swan Street
Albany, NY 12210-8002

**Re: Restaurant 809 Grill Lounge
112 Dyckman Street
New York, NY 10034
Serial Number: 1164833**

Dear Chairman Boyle:

Community Board 12 passed this December 19th resolution with 34 in favor, four opposed, two abstained and recommended the SLA grant the licensee an amendment to its existing license for an additional bar.

Whereas: Community Board 12's (CB12) Economic Development Committee met December 5, 2006 with Cirilo Moronta, President of Restaurant 809 Grill Lounge at 112 Dyckman Street, to consider an amendment to its existing On-Premises License (serial #: 1164833) for an additional bar and make a recommendation to the SLA in accordance with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law (ABC Law); and;

Whereas: Cirilo Moronta, President of Restaurant 809 Grill Lounge at 112 Dyckman Street, stated that they will be open 7 days a week, 11-12am weekdays, 11-4am (Friday-Saturday) and have 12 employees, and;

Whereas: Cirilo Moronta has other establishments in the community that are well-respected, and;

Whereas: Restaurant 809 has an extremely sophisticated security system, and;

Whereas: The 34th Precinct has a positive working relationship with Cirilo Moronta and had no known complaints; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: Community Board 12 recommends that the SLA grant Restaurant 809 Grill Lounge, at 112 Dyckman Street, an amendment to its existing On-Premises License for an additional bar.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Collins", is written over a horizontal line.

Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Borough President Scott Stringer
Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Congressman Charles Rangel
State Senator Eric Schneiderman
Assembly Member Adriano Espaillat
Assembly Member Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Miguel Martinez
Commissioner Lawrence J. Gedda, SLA
Commissioner Noreen Healey, SLA
Deputy Commissioner Fred J. Gioffre, SLA
Chief Executive Officer Joshua B. Toas, Esq., SLA
Attorney-at-Law S. Michael Weisberg (for Restaurant 809 Grill Lounge)
Cirilo Moronta, Owner, Restaurant 809 Grill Lounge



Community Board 12

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December 22, 2006

Hon. Daniel B. Boyle
Chairman
New York State Liquor Authority
80 S. Swan Street
Albany, NY 12210-8002

**Re: Javier & David Restaurant Corp.
DBA: Caridad Restaurant
1618 St. Nicholas Avenue
New York, NY 10040
Serial Number: 1156838**

**El Malecon Restaurant
4141 Broadway
New York, NY 10033
Serial Number: 1023154**

Dear Chairman Boyle:

Community Board 12 passed this December 19th resolution 38 in favor, one opposed, one abstained and recommended the SLA renew the licenses for Caridad Restaurant and El Malecon Restaurant.

Whereas: Community Board 12's (CB12) Economic Development Committee met December 5, 2006 with business owners and members of the public to review license renewal applications to the New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) and to make a recommendation on each license to the SLA in accordance with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law (ABC Law); and;

Whereas: Business owners satisfactorily responded to questions and comments from the committee and members of the public regarding their business plan and operation, menu, hours, floor plan, occupancy, parking, sound-proofing, music, noise, sanitation, employment opportunities and other concerns; and;

Whereas: Both the SLA and the local 33rd and 34th Precincts were contacted about both locations and reported no adverse history, complaints, or violations for any of the premises up for renewal; now therefore;

Be It Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan recommends the SLA renew the following licenses with the stipulation the businesses operate in accordance with all provisions of the ABC Law:

- Caridad Restaurant at 1618 St. Nicholas Ave. renewing On-Premises Liquor
- El Malecon Restaurant at 4141 Broadway renewing Eating Place Beer

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Collins'.

Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Borough President Scott Stringer
Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Congressman Charles Rangel
State Senator Eric Schneiderman
Assembly Member Adriano Espaillat
Assembly Member Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Miguel Martinez
Commissioner Lawrence J. Gedda, SLA
Commissioner Noreen Healey, SLA
Deputy Commissioner Fred J. Gioffre, SLA
Chief Executive Officer Joshua B. Toas, Esq., SLA
Miguel Montas, Owner, Caridad Restaurant
Percio Gomez, Owner, El Malecon Restaurant