

COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD 12
Borough of Manhattan

711 West 168 Street, New York, New York 10032

The
City
of
New
York



February 26, 2003

Hon. Gifford Miller
Speaker
City Council
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Speaker Miller:

Community Board 12 approved the following resolution at our meeting last night by a vote of 22-2:

Whereas: At this fragile moment in our history, it is deemed vital by Community Board 12- Manhattan that we state our position on an issue that may the most devastating consequences imaginable, not just in the Middle East, but on our own shores as well; and

Whereas: The actions taken by the President to prepare for war and any ensuing actions that our government might take must therefore be grounded in a solid and responsible understanding of the real consequences of such actions; and

Whereas: A preemptive attack without evidence of imminent danger to our country would shatter the rule of international law and would clear the way for similar actions by other states in conflict such as China and Taiwan, and India and Pakistan, among others; and

Whereas: We must gauge the level of support from countries in the Middle East and that of other U.S. allies; we must also gauge the potential for escalation of the war to draw in other countries in the region; and

Whereas: While the President proceeds to send U.S. forces overseas and threatens to send them to war, domestic issues of great concern are being ignored, the budget is in severe deficit and education, housing, health care, youth, seniors, employment and numerous other needs have not been funded; and

Whereas: We must ask ourselves if this administration does indeed have a plan to defray the economic costs of the war, and if so, whether these costs will be shared by our allies; and

Chairman: Zead Ramadan

(212) 568-8500

District Manager: Gregoria Feliciano

Speaker Miller/2

Whereas: Before the U.S. government commits us to a drastic course of action that undoubtedly will produce an unknown number of casualties for the young men and women of our nation, we must be certain that our actions are deemed absolutely necessary, and only after every other approach to solving this problem has been exhausted; and

Whereas: We are a nation with a keen moral conscience, with the ability to reason through even the most trying circumstances that history has created; as such, in the truest sense of patriotism, we should be resolute and determined not to repeat the same mistakes our leaders have made in the past, as in Vietnam; now therefore be it

Resolved that Community Board 12-Manhattan opposes the Congressional Resolution allowing President George W. Bush unilaterally to declare war against Iraq without the authority of the United Nations or without evidence that the United States is in imminent danger due to actions by the government of Iraq.

We urge the City Council to follow suit and pass a comparable resolution at its meeting today.

We look to your favorable consideration of this matter and hope to hear from you at your earliest possible opportunity.

Sincerely,



Zead Ramadan
Chair

c: Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Miguel Martinez
Senator Hilary Clinton
Senator Charles Schumer
Congressman Charles Rangel
State Senator Eric Schneiderman
State Senator David Paterson
Assemblyman Adriano Espaillat
Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell, Jr.

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711 West 168 Street, New York, New York 10032

February 27, 2003

Hon. C. Virginia Fields
Manhattan Borough President
Municipal Building, 19th Floor
One Centre Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Borough President Fields:

The following resolution was passed by Community Board 12 at its General Meeting on February 25, 2003 by a vote of 20 In Favor and 5 Abstentions:

Whereas: Article 5.01 of the By-laws of Community Board 12, Manhattan states that "sufficient cause for removal of appointed board members shall consist of any one of the following:"

"(1) Three unexcused absences during any six consecutive months from duly called regular general meetings of the board."

"(2) Three unexcused absences from any duly called meetings of any standing committee(s) if that is the member's only standing committee appointment during any six consecutive months"; and


Whereas: Board member Nelson Gomez has been absent from the last five general meetings; and

Whereas: Board member Nelson Gomez has been absent from the last five Public Safety Committee meetings, the only standing committee to which he is appointed; and

Whereas: Certified correspondence was sent to him to which he did not respond; therefore

Be it Resolved: That Community Board 12, Manhattan recommends that the Borough President remove Nelson Gomez from the Board, for cause.

Sincerely,


Zead Ramadan, Chairman
Community Board 12

Chairman Zead Ramadan

(212) 568-8500

District Manager: Gregoria Feliciano

cc: Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor, New York City
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. William Thompson, N.Y.C. Comptroller
Hon. Betsy Gotbaum, N.Y.C. Public Advocate
Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman, District 15
Hon. Eric Schneiderman, State Senator, District 30
Hon. David A. Paterson, State Senator, District 29
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Assemblyman, District 72
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Assemblyman, District 71
Hon. Robert Jackson, Councilman, District 7
Hon. Miguel Martinez, Councilman, District 10

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711 West 168 Street, New York, New York 10032

February 26, 2003

Mr. Peter S. Kalikow, Chair
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
347 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Chairman Kalikow:

The following resolution was unanimously passed by Community Board 12, Manhattan at our General Meeting on February 25, 2003.

- Whereas:** The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) is considering a possible subway and bus fare increase to \$2 per ride and the simultaneous closing of 177 token booths throughout the system, including four in Washington Heights-Inwood; and
- Whereas:** A fare increase of as much as 33% would be particularly onerous for the low and moderate-income residents of communities such as Washington Heights-Inwood; and
- Whereas:** The closing of the token booths undoubtedly would prove to be a counterproductive measure, causing an increase in crime in the subway system at a time of great concern for our city's safety and security; and
- Whereas:** The token booth clerks provide a valuable service by summoning help in the case of emergencies, by providing directions to riders, by opening the gates for children in strollers or riders with packages and by providing information about subway delays; and
- Whereas:** The token booths in Washington Heights-Inwood targeted for closing – at West 157th Street on the #1 line and at West 168th Street, West 175th Street and West 207th Street on the A line – serve busy commercial strips as well as colleges, the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center and a major entry point for commuters from The Bronx; and
- Whereas:** If this deplorable plan is carried out, there would be no accessible clerk for the northbound platform at the 157th Street station, and the full-time booth on the southbound platform is not an acceptable alternative, despite the MTA's suggestion to the contrary in its February 4, 2003 letter to Community Board 12; and
- Whereas:** The MTA's letter also does not satisfy any of the board's other questions about this plan, including those stated above; and
- Whereas:** Both the State and City Comptrollers have undertaken audits to determine the true status of the MTA's finances and those audits will enable the MTA board members and legislators to render a more reasonable decision concerning the MTA's need for additional revenue and/or service cutbacks; therefore

Chairman: Zead Ramadan (212) 568-8500 District Manager: Gregoria Feliciano

Be It Resolved

That

Community Board 12-Manhattan calls upon the Metropolitan Transportation Authority not to approve the proposed fare increase or the closing of the token booths and to await the recommendations that may be offered by the State and City Comptrollers after the completion of their audits of the MTA's financial records before taking any other actions that would adversely affect subway and bus riders.

We would appreciate your response regarding this resolution at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Zead Ramadan
Chairman

cc: Hon. Alan Hevesi, N.Y.S Comptroller
Hon. William Thompson, N.Y.C. Comptroller
Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor, New York City
Hon. Betsy Gotbaum, N.Y.C. Public Advocate
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman, District 15
Hon. Eric Schneiderman, State Senator, District 31
Hon. David A. Paterson, State Senator, District 30
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Assemblyman, District 72
Hon. Herman D. Farrell Jr., Assemblyman, District 71
Hon. Robert Jackson, Councilmember, District 7
Hon. Miguel Martinez, Councilmember, District 10

Zead Ramadan

Gregoria Feliciano