



Community Board 12M

Washington Heights & Inwood

711 West 168th Street — New York, NY 10032

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

Email: CB12M@Juno.com

February 25, 2004

Honorable David Burney
Commissioner
Department of Design & Construction
30-30 Thomson Avenue 4th Fl.
Long Island City, NY 11101

Honorable Iris Weinshall
Commissioner
Department of Transportation
40 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013

Dear Honorable Kenneth R. Holden & Honorable Iris Weinshall:

The following resolution was passed by a majority vote by Community Board 12, Manhattan at it's General Meeting Tuesday, February 24, 2004:

- Whereas:** A presentation of the reconstruction project for Tenth Avenue from W. 206th St. to W. 218th Street (HWM1157) was made on Sept 8, 2003, and a field visit to the project site on September 23, 2003, for the purpose of gaining a better understanding of the design; and
- Whereas:** Attendees on those two occasions made comments and raised issues regarding the need to reduce congestion and improve operational safety; and
- Whereas:** The NYC Dept. of Design & Construction and the Dept. of Transportation amended the plan in response to the community's concerns; and
- Whereas:** The proposed improvement includes removing the raised island on 10th Avenue and Broadway, between W. 216th Street and W. 218th Street; and
- Whereas:** The normalizing and the shortening of the intersections 10th Avenue at Post Avenue, Isham Street and Sherman Ave. will allow safer crossings for pedestrians; and
- Whereas:** Two additional traffic restrictions – prohibiting northbound left-turns from Tenth Avenue into W. 207th Street and eastbound left-turns from W. 207th Street into Tenth Avenue – also significantly ease traffic congestion; now therefore
- Be It Resolved:** That Community Board 12-Manhattan supports the proposed recommendations for the final design of the reconstruction project (HWM1157) of 10th Avenue from W. 206th St. to W. 218th Street.

We would appreciate your favorable consideration of this resolution and look forward to your response at your earliest possible convenience. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Zead Ramadan
Chair

cc: Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Hon. William Thompson, NYC Comptroller
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman, District 15
Hon. Eric Schneiderman, State Senator, District 31
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
Daniel Warren, Consultant, Baker Engineering
Dino Y.P. Ng, Assistant Commissioner-Infrastructure/Design (DDC)
Carlyle Cole, Dept of Design & Construction
Maurice W. Bruet, Man. Borough Deputy Commissioner, NYC Dept of Transportation



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February 26, 2004

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

Hon. Joseph L. Bruno
Majority Leader
State Senate
Capitol
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Sheldon Silver
Speaker
State Assembly
Capitol
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Miller, Majority Leader Bruno and Speaker Silver:

The following resolution was passed overwhelmingly by Community Board 12, Manhattan at our General Meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2004:

- Whereas,** Complaints about noise are the leading type of complaint called into the city's 311 central complaint line by residents of Washington Heights-Inwood; and
- Whereas,** Audible car alarms are a major cause of such complaints and have been described by the New York Police Department as an "annoying and sometimes unbearable disturbance for residents in their homes"; and
- Whereas,** Vehicles with such alarms show "no overall reduction in theft losses" compared with vehicles without alarms, according to a study of 73 million vehicles by the Highway Loss Data Institute; and
- Whereas,** Over 50 New York City car alarm installation companies have pledged to disable car alarm sirens without cost, if they are banned; and
- Whereas,** Car owners can readily protect their vehicles with many affordable and truly effective silent devices, which immobilize cars or page motorists directly; and
- Whereas,** Int. 115, introduced in the City Council by Council Member Eva Moskowitz, would ban the installation, sale and use of car alarms in the five boroughs of New York City and grant authority to the Police Department to enforce its provisions; and
- Whereas,** The State Insurance Law requires insurance companies to provide an automatic discount to owners of cars equipped with anti-theft devices, including audible car alarms; now
- Therefore Be It Resolved** That Community Board 12-Manhattan urges the City Council to enact Int. 115 into law at its earliest possible opportunity; and

**Be It Further
Resolved**

That Community Board 12-Manhattan calls upon the State Legislature to amend the State Insurance Law to remove the automatic discount afforded to owners of cars in New York City with audible car alarms.

We would appreciate your favorable consideration of this resolution and look forward to your response at your earliest possible convenience. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Zead Ramadan
Chair
Community Board 12 Manhattan



Steve Simon
Chair
Health & Environment Committee

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
Hon. William Thompson, Comptroller
Hon. Betsy Gotbaum, Public Advocate
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Charles B. Rangel, Congressman
Hon. Eric Schneiderman, State Senator
Hon. David Paterson, State Senator
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Assemblyman
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Assemblyman
Hon. Robert Jackson, Councilmember
Hon. Miguel Martinez, Councilmember
Hon. Eva Moskowitz, Councilmember



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February 27, 2004

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 an overwhelming majority vote by Community Board 12, Manhattan at our General Meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2004:

- 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: Article 5.05, Section (2) of the By-laws of Community Board 12, Manhattan states, "The Board Chairperson, after consultation with the Executive Committee, may recommend removal of any board member by the Borough President or the board for cause"; and
- Whereas: Chapter 70, Section 2800(b) of the New York City Charter states, "An appointed member may be removed from a community board for cause, which shall include substantial nonattendance at board or committee meetings over a period of six months, by the borough president of by a majority vote of the community board"; and
- Whereas: Some confusion has arisen concerning the process for removing board members, and additional clarity appears to be necessary to ensure that all the relevant parties are aware of a board member's poor attendance record and his or her possible removal: now therefore
- Be it Resolved: That the second paragraph of Article 5.04, Section (1) of the By-laws of Community Board 12, Manhattan is hereby renumbered as Section (2) and amended to read as follows: "The Chairperson, on behalf of the Executive Committee, shall notify by certified/return receipt mail members in jeopardy of removal, and also notify the Borough President and the Council Member who recommended the member's appointment as may be appropriate, stating the cause and requesting that the member respond as to his/her intention for continued participation as a Board Member or desire to resign from the Board. A lack of written response from a member within thirty days after notice by the Chairperson shall be understood to represent the member's desire to resign from the board and shall be acted upon accordingly by the Executive Committee"; and

Zead Ramadan, Chairman

Gregoria Feliciano, District Manager

Be it Further Resolved: That Article 5.01 of the by-laws of Community Board 12, Manhattan be amended to read, "Consistent with Chapter 70, Section 2800(b) of the New York City Charter, which states, 'An appointed member may be removed from a community board for cause, which shall include substantial nonattendance at board or committee meetings over a period of six months, by the Borough President or by a majority vote of the community board,' sufficient cause for removal of appointed members shall consist of any one of the following:"

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Zead Ramadan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Zead Ramadan
Chairman

c: Hon. Miguel Martinez, Councilman, Council District #10
Hon. Robert Jackson, Councilman, Council District #7



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February 25, 2004

Honorable George E. Pataki
Governor
The Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224-0341

Dear Honorable George E. Pataki:

The following resolution was unanimously passed by Community Board 12, Manhattan at it's General Meeting, Tuesday, February 24, 2004:

- Whereas:** There were 1,013,954 rent-stabilized apartments in New York City, 56,444 of which were in Washington Heights-Inwood, as of 2002, according to the Housing and Vacancy Survey (HVS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau; and
- Whereas:** There were 59,324 rent-controlled apartments in New York City, and 3,338 of those were in Washington Heights-Inwood, in 2002, according to the HVS; and
- Whereas:** Rent-controlled tenants are primarily senior citizens since these tenants have continuously occupied their apartments since June 30, 1971; and
- Whereas:** Under current law, these tenants usually pay annual 7.5% rent increases, and extra charges for fuel, labor and major capital improvements, significantly more than the increases paid by rent-stabilized tenants as well as the rate of inflation; and
- Whereas:** These increases have driven up the rents for so-called "rent-controlled" apartments beyond the reach of many tenants, especially those who do not qualify for the Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption, and in many cases beyond the rents for comparable rent-stabilized apartments; and
- Whereas:** Efforts in the City Council to correct this inequity have been blocked by an outrageous provision inserted into the state law renewing rent regulation last June, which specifically prohibits New York City's legislative body from adopting local laws dealing with rents, evictions and other related issues that would benefit tenants; and
- Whereas:** The current system should be changed so that rents for both types of apartments would be determined each year by the Rent Guidelines Board, which is required to take into account the landlords' operating costs when calculating the allowable rent increases; and
- Whereas:** Surcharges for fuel and labor and higher increases for low-rent apartments, which have been particularly harmful to low-income tenants and have exacerbated the housing crisis by diminishing the supply of apartments available to low-income people, should be prohibited; and

Whereas: These changes would streamline and simplify the rent regulation system and make it less confusing to tenants, landlords, and the public as a whole; now

**Therefore Be
It Resolved**

That Community Board 12-Manhattan urges the State Legislature to pass legislation that would streamline the rent regulation system, and the Governor to sign it into law, at the earliest possible opportunity.

We would appreciate your favorable consideration of this resolution and look forward to your response at your earliest possible convenience. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Zead Ramadan
Chair

cc: Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Hon. William Thompson, NYC Comptroller
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman, District 15
Hon. Eric Schneiderman, State Senator, District 31
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



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February 25, 2004

Honorable Edwin Mendez-Santiago
Commissioner
Department for the Aging
2 Lafayette Street
New York, NY 10007

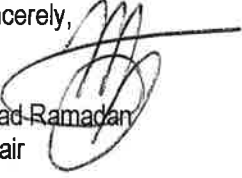
Dear Honorable Edwin Mendez-Santiago:

The following resolution was unanimously passed by Community Board 12, Manhattan at it's General Meeting, Tuesday, February 24, 2004:

- Whereas: Over 90,000 meals-on-wheels are delivered annually to senior citizens living in Washington Heights Inwood and more than 263,250 congregate meals are served each year in the community's senior centers; and
- Whereas: Washington Heights Inwood has one of New York City's fastest growing senior citizen populations with nearly 25% of the community's total households with one or more persons age 65 and over; and
- Whereas: Daily meal delivery also functions as a safety net of contact for the community's homebound elderly; and
- Whereas: The community's senior centers have developed a system that enables them to provide daily meal delivery of glatt kosher, kosher, or non-kosher meals to senior citizens depending on their dietary requirements; and
- Whereas: The New York City Department for the Aging has proposed to restructure the Meals-On-Wheels Program so that frozen/shelf stable meals would be delivered to senior citizens fewer than five days a week as a budget cutting move; therefore
- Be it
- Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan, recommends the City not implement the Frozen/shelf stable meal delivery program and that the existing program continues in order to fulfill the needs of the elderly; and be it
- Further
- Resolved: Any future change in the Meals-On-Wheels Program must be driven by what is best for the participants.

We would appreciate your favorable consideration of this resolution and look forward to your response at your earliest possible convenience. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Zead Ramadan
Chair

cc: Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Hon. William Thompson, NYC Comptroller
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman, District 15
Hon. Eric Schneiderman, State Senator, District 31
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
Hon. Maria Baez, Councilmember - Chair for the Aging Committee
Hon. Erik Dilan, Councilmember - Chair, Senior Centers
Fern Hertzberg, Co-Chair- W.H.I.C.O.A



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February 27, 2004

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 majority vote by Community Board 12, Manhattan at its General Meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2004:

Whereas: Article 5.01 of the By-laws of Community Board 12, Manhattan state 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: Chapter 70 Section 2800 (b) of the City of New York Charter states, "An appointed member may be removed from a community board for cause, which shall include substantial nonattendance at board or committee meetings over a period of six months, by the borough president or by a majority vote of the community board"; and

Whereas: Board member Juan Sanchez has not attended a single meeting of any kind – New Member Orientation, Public Hearing, General Meeting or Committee Meeting – since having been appointed in May '03; and

Whereas: Board member Nelson Castro attended no committee meetings in all of 2003, and has not attended a general meeting since September '03; and

Whereas: All of these absences were unexcused (except for those from meetings held on dates other than their usually scheduled dates, absence from which is automatically excused); and

Whereas: Numerous attempts to reach Messrs. Sanchez and Castro have gone unanswered; and

Zead Ramadan, Chairman

Gregoria Feliciano, District Manager

Whereas: The retention of non-attending members on the Board's roster makes it difficult to achieve and maintain quorum at meetings, and to conduct the business with which the Board is charged; therefore

Be it Resolved: That Community Board 12, Manhattan removes Juan Sanchez and Nelson Castro from the Board for cause, having been empowered by the City Charter to do so.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Zead Ramadan
Chair

CC: Hon. Miguel Martinez, Councilman, Council District #10
Hon. Robert Jackson, Councilman, Council District #07

Zead Ramadan, Chairman

Gregoria Feliciano, District Manager