



Community Board 12M

Washington Heights & Inwood

711 West 168th Street – New York, NY 10032

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

Emails: – manh12@verizon.esg.net

Website: www.cb12m.org

July 11, 2005

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

Dear Borough President Fields:

The following resolution was passed 30 in favor, none opposed, one abstention, at Community Board 12's general meeting on Tuesday, June 28, 2005:

- 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:** 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 Bienvenido Toribio, Jr. has attended only one general meeting all year, having been absent from seven and excused from three, has attended only three Economic Development Committee meetings all year, having been absent from six and excused from one, and has failed to attend any meetings since receiving a termination warning in May; and
- Whereas:** Mr. Toribio has been contacted and warned pursuant to the provisions of our By-laws, and has been spoken to +/or e-mailed by Board members, staff and officers; and
- 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; and
- Whereas:** This removal is without personal prejudice to Mr. Toribio, recognizing that his personal schedule may not be able to accommodate Community Board service at this time; therefore
- Be it Resolved:** That Community Board 12, Manhattan removes Bienvenido Toribio, Jr. from the Board for cause, having been empowered by the City Charter to do so.

Sincerely,


Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Honorable Robert Jackson, Council Member
Honorable Miguel Martinez, Council Member
Ms. Roxanne Dodds, Director of Community Affairs
Mr. Bienvenido Toribio

Martin Collins, Chair

Renee E. Tirado, District Manager



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July 11, 2005

Ms. Micaela Birmingham
Director
Municipal Art Society Planning Center
457 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Ms. Birmingham:

Manhattan Community Board 12 unanimously passed the following resolution at its June 28th general meeting:

Whereas, the Municipal Art Society ("MAS") is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1893 to promote a more livable city through advocacy for excellence in urban design and planning, architecture, historic preservation and public art; and

Whereas, the Campaign for Community-based Planning (the "Campaign"), started in 2000, is among the programs and initiatives undertaken or supported by MAS to carry out its mission; and

Whereas, the Campaign is a coalition of community, environmental and professional groups which advocate for city government to support community-based planning in low- and moderate-income communities in New York City; and

Whereas, citywide there are many urgent needs including affordable housing, new schools, open space, environmental justice and economic development opportunities that benefit all New Yorkers; and

Whereas, Community Boards have a City Charter-mandated responsibility to prepare plans for the growth, development and improvement of their districts and these community-based plans provide vital insights on local planning issues and concerns which city government should included in its efforts to address these needs; and

Whereas, Community Boards are often not provided the financial and technical support required to adequately fulfill this City Charter-mandated responsibility; and

Whereas, City government is not required to implement the recommendations of community-based plans that are intended to influence city capital and expense investments as well as modifications to land use and zoning regulations; and

Whereas, the Campaign has requested the support of Community Board 12-Manhattan in furthering its mission;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that Community Board 12-Manhattan supports the core principles of community-led planning articulated by the Community-Based Planning Task Force and generally outlined below.

1. Improve the capacity of Community Boards to Plan.
2. Build the capacity of Community Boards to reflect the districts they represent via enhanced community outreach and participation.
3. Provide communities with the tools and resources needed to implement their plans.

Martin Collins, Chair

Renee E. Tirado, District Manager

Sincerely,

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

Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Honorable C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Robert Jackson, City Council Member
Honorable Miguel Martinez, City Council Member
Ms. Eve Baron, Senior Planner, Municipal Art Society



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July 11, 2005

Mr. Charles O'Shea
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
NYS Department of Transportation
47-40 21st Street
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Mr. O'Shea:

The following resolution passed 30 in favor, none opposed, one abstention at Community Board 12's general meeting on Tuesday, June 28, 2005:

Whereas: The community needs improved access to both Riverside and Fort Washington Parks and as a result Assembly Member Herman (Denny) Farrell, Jr., arranged funding for the New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) to build new stairs and an ADA-compliant ramp at West 158th Street; and

Whereas: The ramp and stairs will be well-lit as a security feature, and the basketball and volleyball courts at the bottom of the present stairs will be reconstructed as part of the overall project; and

Whereas: This project will provide benefits to all Washington Heights residents by allowing greater access to these parks, especially for the disabled, bike riders, parents with children in strollers, and senior citizens; and

Whereas: Fort Washington Park is generally underutilized and this scenic park offers beautiful views of the George Washington Bridge, Hudson River, the Palisades, as well as access to the Little Red Lighthouse; and

Whereas: This plan has been reviewed by the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, which has worked with the NYS DOT to develop a mutually acceptable design; therefore

Be It Resolved: Community Board 12 approves the construction of new stairs and an ADA-compliant ramp at West 158th Street, which will improve access to both Riverside and Fort Washington Parks, and the reconstruction of the basketball and volleyball courts at the bottom of the stairs; and

Martin Collins, Chair

Renee E. Tirado, District Manager

Be It Further Resolved: Community Board 12 requests that NYS DOT and NYC Parks and Recreation work together to select a design for the new fence and rail for the stairs and ramp that is more aesthetically pleasing; and

Be It Further Resolved: Community Board 12 requests that any other items not fully specified and scoped to this date (June 28, 2005) will be presented to the board for its consideration and review.

Sincerely,

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

Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Honorable C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Eric Schneiderman, State Senator
Honorable Herman D. Farrell, Jr., State Assembly Member
Honorable Robert Jackson, City Council Member
Honorable Adrian Benepe, Commissioner, Department of Parks & Recreation
Honorable William Castro, Manhattan Borough Commissioner, DPR