



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.es.net

Website: www.cb12m.org

March 29, 2005

Honorable Verna Eggleston
Commissioner
New York City Human Resources Administration
180 Water Street
New York, NY 10038

Honorable Martha K. Hirst
Commissioner
Department of Citywide Administrative Services
Municipal Building, 17th Floor
1 Centre Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioner Eggleston & Commissioner Hirst:

At its General Meeting on March 22, 2005 Manhattan Community Board 12 (CB12) unanimously passed the following resolution calling on the Human Resources Administration and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services to maintain the Dyckman Job Center within Community Board 12.

Whereas: Over the past five years, Community Board 12, elected officials, and community-based organizations providing housing and social services to area residents have worked tirelessly with the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) to obtain operational, technical, and physical enhancements to improve customer service, reduce crowding, and shorten waiting periods at the Dyckman Job Center, formerly known as the Dyckman Income Support Center, located at 4660 Broadway; and

Whereas: The Dyckman Job Center provides public assistance and other income support services for needy Washington Heights and Inwood residents from zip codes 10032, 10033, 10034, and 10040, including Medicaid, Food Stamps, and other emergency assistance benefits, information, services, and referrals, as well as, on-site access to job search and placement services, childcare information, vocational, educational, and training services; and

Whereas: According to the 2000 Census Data used by HRA, Community Board 12 has a total population of 208,414 of which 60,775 or 30% of the population lives below the poverty level; and

Whereas: Data from a January 11, 2005 report by the United Way of New York City and the Women's Center for Education and Career Advancement entitled "2004 Self-Sufficiency Standards for the City of New York," indicates that a family of three in northern Manhattan needs an annual income of at least \$48,995 to be self-sufficient and make ends meet, especially considering the report's findings that housing costs in New York City increased an average of 17% over the last four years and childcare costs have risen 10%; and

Whereas: HRA operates various programs through the Dyckman Job Center designed at preventing eviction, in addition to providing services to homeless families and individuals including the Homeless Diversion Program which maintains families in permanent housing and avoids their placement in New York City's emergency shelter system, through the payment of rent arrears, apartment search services, granting relocation costs, Jiggets intervention, Section 8 reinstatement, and other alternatives that secure permanent housing; and

Whereas: The community has come to rely on the services the Dyckman Job Center provides with HRA reporting as of October 2003, more than 95,000 area residents enrolled in the Medicaid Program, more than 39,000 individuals receiving Food Stamps, and a total of 14, 418 recipients from the community receiving public assistance; and

- Whereas:** HRA and the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) report that the Dyckman Job Center's lease renewal is currently being negotiated with the property owner of 4660 Broadway; and
- Whereas:** If HRA fails to obtain a lease renewal at 4660 Broadway and relocate the Dyckman Job Center to a comparable space within Community District 12, the loss of the Dyckman Job Center would have a highly detrimental impact on the local community; and
- Whereas:** A great burden would be created for local clients, especially those in the disabled community, who depend on the convenience and closeness of the Dyckman Job Center to provide services and assist them with obtaining critical benefits; and
- Whereas:** The relocation of approximately 300 jobs to centers outside of Community Board 12 would impact on local businesses, since the presence of these workers in the heart of the community is a catalyst to businesses and revitalization; and
- Whereas:** The closing of the Dyckman Job Center would potentially relocate caseloads from Zip Codes 10032, 10033, 10034, and 10040 to either the Hamilton Job Center located at 530 West 135th Street or the St. Nicholas Job Center located at 132 West 125th Street in Manhattan; and
- Whereas:** According to HRA, Case Managers are responsible for overseeing all aspects of an individual's case and ensuring that participants move through required activities in compliance with program standards and negotiations; and
- Whereas:** As a result of a potential closing of the Dyckman Job Center, Case Managers at the Hamilton and St. Nicholas Job Centers would be overburdened with thousands of caseloads from Community Board 12, and Washington Heights and Inwood residents would lose the advances obtained by Community Board 12 at the Dyckman Job Center that lend to an atmosphere where client case management is undertaken in an effective and efficient manner; therefore be it
- Resolved:** Community Board 12 calls upon the New York City Human Resources Administration and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services to maintain the Dyckman Job Center located within Community Board 12 and also encourages these City agencies to work to negotiate a favorable lease renewal for the Dyckman Job Center at its current location, 4660 Broadway.

We look forward to receiving your response as soon as possible to this very important resolution.

Sincerely,



Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Honorable Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
Honorable C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Charles Rangel, Congressman
Honorable Eric Schneiderman, State Senator
Honorable Herman D. Farrell Jr., NYS State Assembly Member
Honorable Adriano Espaillat, NYS State Assembly Member
Honorable Miguel Martinez, NYC Council Member
Honorable Robert Jackson, NYC Council Member
Honorable Betsy Gotbaum, Public Advocate



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March 29, 2005

Honorable Diana L. Taylor
Superintendent of Banks
Banking Department
One State Street
New York, NY 10004-1417

Dear Superintendent Taylor:

Manhattan Community Board 12 passed the following resolution at its general meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 2005:

Whereas: Subsequent to the attacks of September 11, 2001 ("9/11") federal regulators began to more stringently monitor and regulate the money service business industry ("MSBs") due in part to the fact that money transmitters were used to wire funds to hijackers involved in the 9/11 attacks; and

Whereas: The more stringent regulations created by the enactment of the USA PATRIOT Act and other post-9/11 legislation have caused many banks to terminate or to plan the termination of the accounts of MSBs in Washington Heights-Inwood and nationwide because of the increased demands of regulatory oversight, the potential liability arising from money transfer transactions and the identification of MSBs by the US Treasury Department as being at high-risk for potential money-laundering, and

Whereas: The banking industry is concerned that post-9/11, zero tolerance law enforcement and regulatory environment maintaining accounts for MSBs may subject banks to heightened scrutiny by regulators and bank examiners and is further concerned that banks are being evaluated against regulatory standards that are not clear and do not provide well-established rules for banks to follow in vetting money service customers, and

Whereas: MSBs provide a vital service to neighborhoods such as Washington Heights-Inwood in particular to immigrant residents who wire money to relatives in their native countries where the wired funds often constitute a significant portion of the recipients household income, and

Whereas: There are 7 licensed MSBs in Washington Heights-Inwood, which employ approximately 1600 people, and

Whereas: Without access to banking services many licensed small and mid-size MSBs would not be able to provide wire transfer services resulting not only in the loss of an important service to community residents but also potential job losses , and

Whereas: The loss of banking services to licensed MSBs would likely cause customers of these businesses to patronize unlicensed wire transfer operations, which often are not in compliance with anti-terrorism and anti-money laundering regulations, and

Whereas: In a written statement dated March 8, 2005 the US Department of Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement Network ("FinCEN"), the federal agency with jurisdiction over anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist regulations, indicated it is committed to ensuring MSBs continued access to banking services and has outlined certain initial steps towards corrective actions; now therefore

Be It Resolved: Community Board 12-Manhattan ("CB12-M") calls for and supports a moratorium on the closure of MSB bank accounts until such time as the federal and state agencies having jurisdiction (the "Agencies") have issued clarified rules and regulations; and

Be It Further Resolved: That CB 12-M encourages the Agencies to expedite the issuance of clear, well-defined rules for banks and MSBs to follow pertaining to compliance with anti-terrorism, anti-money laundering and related matters and that said clarified rules be coordinated by and between the Agencies so as to ensure consistency of requirements and standards, and

Be It Further Resolved: That CB12-M calls upon the Agencies to provide increased education to bank examiners to ensure more complete understanding of the money services business industry and additionally to provide increased education, outreach and written guidelines to banks and MSBs to ensure more complete understanding of the requirements and models of best practice for compliance, risk assessment and due diligence.

We look forward to your written response to this important resolution.

Sincerely,



Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Honorable Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
Honorable William C. Thompson, Comptroller
Honorable C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Charles Rangel, Congressman
Honorable Eric Schneiderman, State Senator
Honorable Herman D. Farrell Jr., NYS Assembly Member
Honorable Adriano Espaillat, NYS Assembly Member
Honorable Miguel Martinez, NYC Council Member
Honorable Robert Jackson, NYC Council Member
Mr. David Landsman, Executive Director, The National Money Transmitters Association Inc.



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March 29, 2005

Honorable Gifford Miller
Speaker
City Council
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Speaker Miller:

Manhattan Community Board 12 passed the following resolution, in support of City Council Intro. 515, at its general meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 2005:

Whereas: The existing local law only mandates street numbers on the self-designated fronts of a building; and

Whereas: Legislation before the New York City Council, Intro. 515, requires that all building numbers be posted on any side of a building that contains entrances expressly utilized for day-to-day pedestrian entrances and exits; and

Whereas: The street numbers must be displayed on entrances to a building as defined by Intro 515, so that they are plainly legible from the sidewalk; and proper 30-day notification commensurate with the law be provided to landlords before Intro 515 becomes law; and

Whereas: The new law would raise existing non-compliance fines, the first fine will be \$250, instead of \$25, and the new penalty for each additional day of non-compliance will be \$50, instead of \$5; and

Whereas: The lead sponsor, Council Member Gale A. Brewer states that this law will facilitate more efficient business in the City of New York by benefiting first responders such as the Emergency Medical Services, the New York City Police Department, and the Fire Department of the City of New York, as well as pedestrians, repair persons, delivery personnel, and drivers of motor vehicles; therefore be it

Resolved: Community Board 12 affirms its support for the passage of New York City Council Intro. 515; and, be it

Further Resolved: That Community Board 12's support be transmitted to the New York City Council and included in any testimony before the City Council or its Committees regarding Intro. 515.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mat Collins".

Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Honorable Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
Honorable C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Charles Rangel, Congressman
Honorable Eric Schneiderman, State Senator
Honorable Herman D. Farrell Jr., NYS State Assembly Member
Honorable Adriano Espaillat, NYS State Assembly Member
Honorable Miguel Martinez, NYC Council Member
Honorable Robert Jackson, NYC Council Member
Honorable Gale A. Brewer, NYC Council Member
Honorable Madeline Provenzano, Chair, City Council Committee on Housing & Buildings