



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

December 8, 2004

Mr. Jonathan Greenspun
Commissioner
Mayor's Community Assistance Unit
100 Gold Street, 2nd floor
New York, NY 10038

Dear Commissioner Greenspun:

Community Board 12, Manhattan passed the following resolution at its general meeting of November 23, 2004, unanimously (34 votes in favor, with no abstentions):

Whereas Community Board 12, Manhattan (CB12) recognizes that not-for-profit community-based organizations, institutions and houses of worship wish to hold street activities in Washington Heights and Inwood and recognizes the community fellowship and connection these events provides; and,

Whereas CB12 recognizes and supports Greenmarket, which promotes regional agriculture and fresh produce and farm products to the community; and,

Whereas street activities and Greenmarkets may require the closing of streets to parking and vehicular traffic and impact the delivery of municipal services in the community; therefore

Be it resolved: that CB12 establishes a Street Activities Permit Task Force which shall review the Board's street activity rules and regulations as its first order of business and recommend a revised policy to the Executive Committee for adoption by the full Board; and

Be it Further Resolved: that the Street Activities Permit Task Force review all Greenmarket applications and forward approved applications to the Executive Committee via resolution; and

Be it Further Resolved: that the Street Activities Permit Task Force review all street activity permit applications and forward its recommended approval or denial directly to the Chair for signature and transmission to the Mayor's Street Activity Permit Office; and

Be it Further Resolved: that the Traffic & Transportation, Public Safety, Housing & Human Services, Parks & Cultural Affairs and Economic Development Committees each choose one member to represent it on the Street Activities Permit Task Force.

We look forward to receiving your written response to this resolution. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Martin Collins
Chairman

cc: Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman, 15th CD
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Borough President
Hon. Eric Schneiderman, NYS Senate, 30th SD
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Assemblyman, 72nd AD

Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Assemblyman, 71st AD
Hon. Robert Jackson, NYC Councilman, 7th District
Hon. Miguel Martinez, NYC Councilman, 10th District
Mildred Duran, CAU Street Activities Permit Office



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December 8, 2004

Mr. William H. Goldstein
President
School Construction Authority
Office of the Chancellor
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Goldstein:

Community Board 12, Manhattan passed the following resolution at its general meeting of November 23, 2004, by a vote of 18-to-14, with two abstentions:

Whereas the School Construction Authority (SCA) notified Community Board 12, Manhattan (CB12) on October 4, 2004, pursuant to Section 1731 of the New York City School Construction Authority Act (NYSCA), of the proposed site selection of Block 2238, Lots 33 & 35, and any other property in the immediate vicinity which may be necessary for the proposed project, located in the Borough of Manhattan, to be used to construct a 440-seat early childhood center serving Community School District No. 6/Region No. 10; and,

Whereas both lots are privately-owned (total 22,500 sq. ft.) and located on the west side of Broadway between Academy Street and West 204th Street in the Inwood section of Manhattan; and,

Whereas the SCA did not consult with CB12, the local elected officials, the Community Education Council (CEC), or other community leaders with regard to the type of school at this site before notifying CB12 of the site selection; and,

Whereas the SCA changed the proposed use of the site on October 26, 2004 to construct a 440-seat school for kindergarten through the 8th grade based on initial public comments; and,

Whereas CB12 held a public hearing on October 27, 2004 where the overwhelming majority of community residents advocated for a middle school on the site, and some residents also spoke about the district's needs for affordable housing, after-school programs and parking; and,

Whereas Arthur Goldstein, attorney representing one of the property owners, said at the public hearing that the owners are looking to build affordable housing on these lots, and proposed what he said were seven possible alternative sites for new schools; and,

Whereas lot 35 (15,000 sq. ft.) has been vacant for many years and has been cleaned of garbage and debris on numerous occasions by the City when the owner has failed to do so; and,

Whereas CB12's #4 capital budget priority for Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 and #1 capital budget priority for FY 2006 was the construction of a new school on these two lots between Academy & West 204th Streets, therefore,

Be It Resolved: CB12 supports in principle the acquisition of the property for a new school, which is consistent with the Board's #1 capital budget priority for FY 2006; and,

Be It Further Resolved: in view of the various questions raised about the type of school that is needed, we urge the Department of Education and the SCA to enter into a good faith dialogue with CB12, local elected officials, the CEC, and other community leaders to reach consensus on the best possible use of the site; and,

Be It Further Resolved: since the original proposed use of the site is "in flux," according to the SCA, we urge the SCA to withdraw the October 4 notice and resubmit it once a consensus has been reached so that a new public comment period can be held once a final proposal is developed; and,

Be It Further Resolved: in the interim, we ask the SCA to evaluate all other sites that may be recommended by any interested parties and report its detailed findings to CB12, local public officials, and the CEC prior to the new public comment period.

We look forward to receiving your written response to this resolution. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Martin Collins
Chairman

cc: Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Hon. Joel I. Klein, Chancellor
Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman, 15th District
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Eric Schneiderman, State Senator, 30th District
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, State Assemblyman, 72nd District
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., State Assemblyman, 71st District
Hon. Robert Jackson, NYC Councilman, 7th District
Hon. Miguel Martinez, NYC Councilman, 10th District



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December 8, 2004

Hon. Adrian Benepe
Commissioner
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
New York, NY 10021

Dear Commissioner Benepe:

Community Board 12, Manhattan passed the following resolution at its general meeting of November 23, 2004, unanimously (30 votes in favor, with four not voting due to conflict):

Whereas, Over 200 people attended an all-day community planning meeting on January 31, 2004 and articulated, among other things, a need for more public recreation space and park facilities; and

Whereas, West 202nd through 206th Streets between Tenth Avenue and the Harlem River are an eyesore and used for dumping; and

Whereas, The New York City Department of Parks & Recreation (NYCDPR) has the capital funds in its current (FY '05) budget to convert these street-ends into Greenstreet parks; and

Whereas, These Greenstreets would provide areas for a broad range of recreation, including picnicking, spray showers, small-scale public performance and community gardening, as well as waterfront access for people to launch their own small boats; and

Whereas, The Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee of Community Board 12, Manhattan met on November 4th at PS/IS176 and again on November 18th at the Dyckman Houses Community Center to hear NYCDPR present its plans to the public and obtain feedback; and

Whereas, The plans include lighting poles in all five proposed Greenstreets, as well as safety fencing to prevent people from falling into the river; and

Whereas, NYCDPR is committed to appropriate rodent abatement during construction and for the life of the Greenstreets; and

Whereas, A stewardship program creating a partnership between the residents and NYCDPR could be started to ensure the maintenance of these Greenstreets; and

Whereas, The proposed project would go to bid this winter and break ground in the Spring or Summer of '05; therefore,

Be It Resolved: that Community Board 12, Manhattan supports the construction of five Greenstreet parks where West 202nd, 203rd, 204th, 205th and 206th Streets meet the Harlem River as soon as possible; and

Be It Further Resolved: that Community Board 12, Manhattan work with the 34th Precinct and the NYCDPR Parks Enforcement Patrol to ensure the safety of these parks and the community residents using them.

We look forward to receiving your written response to this resolution. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

Martin Collins
Chair

cc: Hon. Daniel Doctoroff, Deputy Mayor
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman, 15th District
Hon. Eric Schneiderman, State Senator, 30th District
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, State Assemblyman, 72nd District
Hon. Robert Jackson, NYC Council Member, 7th District
Hon. Miguel Martinez, NYC Council Member, 10th District
Hon. William Castro, Manhattan Borough Commissioner, NYCDPR
Matthew Wambua, NYC Economic Development Corporation



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December 8, 2004

Mr. Lawrence Reuter
President
MTA New York City Transit
370 Jay Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Mr. Reuter:

Community Board 12, Manhattan passed the following resolution at its general meeting of November 23, 2004, unanimously (34 votes, with no abstentions):

Whereas the preliminary FY 2004 budget for the MTA NYC Transit System proposes to close two token booth stations and reduce subway service at the subway stations in Washington Heights; and

Whereas the two stations involved are the West 157th Street and West 168th Street IRT subway stations; and

Whereas the MTA in the past has promised our community, in response to the concerns of local residents, that there will be no station booth closures and reduction in subway service; and

Whereas the loss of two station booths and service cut on the IRT line would be a detriment to this community, eliminating the eyes and ears of a system which serves as a deterrent for crime as well as creating long delays for people on their way to and from work, and adversely affecting the quality of life for more than 180,000 people; and,

Whereas the MTA is also threatening to eliminate the M98 bus; therefore,

Be It Resolved: that the proposed cuts in the MTA budget of two token booth stations be rescinded, and that the MTA reaffirm its commitment to provide a more reliable service, reduce rush-hour traffic congestion and support transit improvements; and,

Be It Further Resolved: that Community Board 12, Manhattan, insists that the MTA not cut service at these two stations in any form and increase the number of token booth clerks to handle the heavy passenger traffic at these stations, and eliminate "skip-stop" service on the 1/9 line.

We look forward to receiving your written response to this resolution. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

Martin Collins
Chairman

cc: Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman, 15th District
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Eric Schneiderman, State Senator, 30th District
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, State Assemblyman, 72nd District
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., State Assemblyman, 71st District
Hon. Robert Jackson, NYC Councilman, 7th District
Hon. Miguel Martinez, NYC Councilman, 10th District
Adrian Taub, Assistant Director, MTA Government & Community Affairs



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December 10, 2004

Hon. George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

The following resolution was passed by a vote of 34 – 0 by Community Board 12- Manhattan at its General Meeting on Tuesday, November 23, 2004:

Whereas, The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) has accepted the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission recommendation to study the feasibility of downsizing the Manhattan VA Hospital on East 23rd Street by transferring critical inpatient services to the Brooklyn VA Hospital in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn; and

Whereas, USDVA Secretary Anthony Principi has called for a feasibility study to determine whether there should be one hospital for both Manhattan and Brooklyn; and

Whereas, The Veterans Hospital on East 23rd Street provides vital medical, mental health and rehabilitation services to veterans from the greater metropolitan area, including all five boroughs, Westchester and New Jersey; and

Whereas, Many war veterans who reside within our community depend upon this facility for their health needs and care; and

Whereas, The Manhattan VA Hospital is centrally located and accessible by public transportation via a number of different routes, including wheelchair accessible lift-equipped buses used by elderly and disabled veterans; and

Whereas, The Manhattan VA Hospital is a critical member of an extensive and integrated specialized network of medical care, medical training and research that includes New York University and Bellevue Medical Centers, NYU School of Dentistry, and the Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine; and

Whereas, The Manhattan VA Hospital has been cited as a Center of Excellence for clinical care and research in the areas of post-traumatic stress disorder, neurosurgery, cardiac and cardiovascular surgery, cardiac catheterization, prosthetic devices, HIV/AIDS and dialysis; and

Whereas, To reach the Brooklyn VA Hospital, patients, caretakers and family members must travel by subways that are not accessible to wheelchair users and others with mobility impairments, which thereby seriously compromises their access to necessary medical care; and

Whereas, Downsizing and closure of the Manhattan VA Hospital would further stress already overburdened public and private clinics and hospitals; and

Whereas, The Manhattan VA Hospital has been included in the National Disaster Medical Center Plan, and many veterans and non-veterans alike would turn to this hospital in the unfortunate event of a disaster; and

Whereas, The Manhattan VA Hospital is especially important now, with thousands of men and women in the U. S. military services incurring casualties as a result of the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

Whereas, The replication and transfer of specialized services available at the Manhattan VA Hospital to other VA hospitals would cost in excess of \$100 million for infrastructure alone; now therefore

Be it resolved, Community Board 12-Manhattan urges President George W. Bush and DVA Secretary Principi to preserve the Manhattan VA Hospital and maintain all its services; and

Be it further resolved that the feasibility study be conducted by a fully representative commission, to include veterans and other stakeholders, and that this process be open and transparent.

We would appreciate receiving a response to this resolution at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Martin Collins, Chairman
Community Board 12, Manhattan

- cc: Hon. Anthony Principi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Hon. Charles Schumer, US Senator
Hon. Hillary Rodham Clinton, US Senator
Hon. Arlen Specter, Chairman of the Senate Veteran's Affairs
Hon. Charles Rangel, Member of Congress
Hon. Chris Smith, Member of Congress
Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Member of Congress
Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Member of Congress
Hon. Nydia Velazquez, Member of Congress
Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Hon. Betsy Gotbaum, Public Advocate
Hon. William Thompson, Comptroller
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
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