



Community Board 12M

Washington Heights & Inwood

711 West 168th Street – New York, NY 10032

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

Emails: – manh12@verizonesg.net

Website: www.cb12m.org

November 30, 2005

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

Re: City Council Intro. 550-A

Dear Speaker Miller:

Community Board 12 unanimously passed the following resolution at its November 29, 2005 General Meeting.

Whereas: The Washington Heights-Inwood community has fought for years for the building of new schools in Region 10-District 6 to reduce classroom overcrowding; and

Whereas: The Department of Education's (DOE) definition of school capacity includes the use of transportable structures that were built to be temporary, special spaces meant for enrichment classes and rooms that are inappropriate learning spaces; and

Whereas: Regular classes are being taught in rooms intended to be science labs, art classes, even locker rooms and bathrooms; and

Whereas: Community Board 12, Manhattan (CB12M), has asked to no avail for data showing the actual status of school overcrowding, which has never been clear because the DOE uses very confusing and ever-changing methods to report school seating capacity; now therefore be it

Resolved: CB12M urges the City Council to pass Intro. 550-A, which will require the New York City DOE to report the actual level of overcrowding in the City Public School system.

Sincerely,

Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Miguel Martinez, Council Member
Hon. Robert Jackson, Council Member
Hon. Eva Moskowitz, Council Member

Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Assembly Member
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr. Assembly Member
Hon. Eric Schneiderman, State Senator

Martin Collins, Chair



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November 30, 2005

Honorable Joel I. Klein
Chancellor
Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: Charging After-School Programs Facility Fees

Dear Chancellor Klein:

Community Board 12 unanimously passed the following resolution at its November 29, 2005 General Meeting.

Whereas: The 2000 Census reports that 46,000 children between the ages of five and eighteen live in the Washington Heights-Inwood community; and

Whereas: After-school programs provide important educational and social opportunities and are vital in a child's overall development; and

Whereas: The City's recent restructuring of the way it funds after-school programs (through the Out-of-School-Time Program) has resulted in a significant reduction in children being served by after-school programs; and

Whereas: The New York City Department of Education (DOE) is exacerbating the problem by charging facility fees to after-school programs, which further reduces their overall resources, services, and hours of operation; now therefore be it

Resolved: CB12M recommends the DOE stop the practice of charging facility fees to after-school programs so that more children may benefit from these essential services.

Sincerely,

Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Miguel Martinez, Council Member
Hon. Robert Jackson, Council Member
Hon. Eva Moskowitz, Council Member

Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Assembly Member
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November 30, 2005

Ms. Nancy Pereira & Ms. Solanger Cabral
Co-Presidents
District Six Community Education Council
4360 Broadway, Room 430
New York, NY 10033

Re: District-Wide Community Education Forum

Dear Ms. Pereira & Ms. Cabral

Community Board 12 unanimously passed the following resolution at its November 29, 2005 General Meeting.

Whereas: Community Board 12, Manhattan agrees in principle to co-sponsor a district-wide community forum on salient issues to the state of education in our district, now therefore be it

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan agrees to be part of the organizing committee with the Community Education Council of School District 6, Presidents' Council, Community Board 9 and community-based organizations to create the program and structure for such a forum.

Sincerely,

Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Miguel Martinez, Council Member
Hon. Robert Jackson, Council Member
Hon. Eva Moskowitz, Council Member
Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Assembly Member
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr. Assembly Member

Hon. Eric Schneiderman, State Senator
Hon. Joel I. Klein, Chancellor
Hon. Jordi Reyes Montblanc, Chair, CB 9
Ms. Gale Reeves, Regional Superintendent
Ms. Martha Madera, Deputy Superintendent
Ms. Yolando Santos, President, President's
Council District 6

Martin Collins, Chair



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November 30, 2005

Mayor Michael Bloomberg
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Commissioner Kate D. Levin
Department of Cultural Affairs
330 West 42nd Street
New York, NY 10036

Re: Creation of a Task Force to Preserve & Revitalize the Audubon Terrace Complex

Dear Mayor Bloomberg & Commissioner Levin:

Community Board 12 unanimously passed the following resolution at its November 29, 2005 General Meeting.

- Whereas: Audubon Terrace, an historic district located at the gateway to Washington Heights at Broadway and West 155th Street, contains three important cultural and educational institutions – the American Academy of Arts & Letters, the Hispanic Society of America and Boricua College, and Our Lady of Esperanza Church; and
- Whereas: The complex is only partially occupied since three institutions that had been there since the early 1900s – the Museum of the American Indian (MAI), the American Geographical Society (AGS) and most recently the American Numismatic Society (ANS) – have moved away; and
- Whereas: The AGS building now is occupied by Boricua College, but the ANS building has been vacant for almost a year; and
- Whereas: The Hispanic Society purchased the adjacent MAI building for the purpose of expanding the exhibit space for its valuable collection, however it is only using it for storage, has openly stated its desire to move downtown and reportedly has offered its facilities for sale; and
- Whereas: Such a move by the Hispanic Society would leave Audubon Terrace more than half empty; and
- Whereas: The City's Landmarks Preservation Commission declared Audubon Terrace an historic district in 1979 in the hope of preserving this impressive Beaux Arts complex; and
- Whereas: Audubon Terrace faces a major crisis and its future is hanging in the balance, proactive measures are required to prevent the further loss of its educational/cultural institutions; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved: Community Board 12-Manhattan calls upon the Mayor's Office and Department of Cultural Affairs to create a task force, including the remaining Audubon Terrace institutions and this Board, to develop a plan to preserve & revitalize this unique educational, cultural & architectural complex.

Martin Collins, Chair

Sincerely,



Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Eric Schneiderman, State Senator
Hon. Miguel Martinez, Council Member
Hon. Robert Jackson, Council Member
Hon. Jose M. Serrano, Council Member
Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Assembly Member
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr. Assembly Member
Assistant Commissioner Timothy Thayer, Cultural Institutions, Dept. Cultural Affairs
Mitchell Coddling, Executive Director, Hispanic Society of America
American Academy of Arts & Letters
Boricua College
Our Lady of Esperanza Church



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November 30, 2005

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

Re: Resolution Calling for Restoration of Funds for the Manhattan Lead Safe House

Dear Speaker Miller:

- Whereas: The Manhattan Lead Safe House, the only such facility in the borough, has been operated at 2183 Amsterdam Ave. by the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation since 2000; and
- Whereas: During that time, five apartments in the building have provided essential temporary housing to 63 families from all over the city; and
- Whereas: These apartments contain a lead-free environment where families who have lead-poisoned children can stay while the lead paint hazards are removed from their homes and their children receive medical treatment; and
- Whereas: The facility also provides social services so that these families receive relocation assistance, legal assistance and coordinated medical care; and
- Whereas: The program also includes community outreach and organizing in which trained advocates visit apartments to inspect for lead paint hazards and to inform tenants of their rights and press landlords to fulfill their legal obligation to repair violations; and
- Whereas: The City's FY 2006 budget adopted in June failed to allocate the basic funding for this program and only included \$40,700 from the Borough President's Office, resulting in the fact that it is now operating at a projected \$172,000 deficit for this fiscal year; and
- Whereas: The Manhattan Lead Safe House is a vital program not only for Washington Heights-Inwood but for the entire city; now, therefore,
- Be It Resolved: Community Board 12-Manhattan urges the Mayor and the City Council to restore the full allocation for the Manhattan Lead Safe House so that it can continue to serve the residents of New York City.

Sincerely,

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

Martin Collins
Chair

Martin Collins, Chair

Cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Eric Schneiderman, State Senator
Hon. Miguel Martinez, Council Member
Hon. Robert Jackson, Council Member
Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Assembly Member
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr. Assembly Member
Barbara Lowry, Executive Director, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp.



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November 30, 2005

Honorable Margaret Forgione
Commissioner – Dept. of Transportation
40 Worth Street, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10013

Re: Recommendation for Traffic Light Control Mechanism at W. 161 Street & Amsterdam Ave.

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

Whereas: Community Board 12, Manhattan (CB12) Traffic & Transportation Committee met November 9, 2005 with Captain John Luongo of Engine Company 84 to discuss improving response time for fire alarms in the area of Amsterdam Avenue and the surrounding Eastern area; and

Whereas: Having a mechanism to turn the traffic light to "red" at W. 161st Street & Amsterdam Avenue will save a full minute, thus allowing fire engines to safely go east against traffic; now, therefore be it

Resolved: CB12M recommends that a traffic light control mechanism be installed in the Engine Company 84 fire house for the purpose of safely improving response time to fire alarms.

Sincerely,

Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Eric Schneiderman, State Senator
Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Assembly Member
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Assembly Member
Hon. Miguel Martinez, Council Member
Hon. Robert Jackson, Council Member
Maurice Bruet, Deputy Borough Commissioner, NYC DOT
Captain John Luongo, FDNY, Engine 84
Chief Ritchie, FDNY, Battalion 13

Martin Collins, Chair