



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

November 1, 2005

Mayor Michael Bloomberg
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly
Headquarters, One Police Plaza
New York, NY 10038

Re: Increasing the Number of Police Officers in the 33rd & 34th Precincts

Dear Mayor Bloomberg & Police Commissioner Kelly:

Community Board 12 unanimously passed the following resolution at its October 27, 2005 General Meeting.

Whereas: Manhattan Community Board 12, the Washington Heights-Inwood community has more than 210,000 residents making it the second most populated community district in Manhattan; and

Whereas: More than 120,000 people live in the 34th precinct and more than 90,000 reside in the 33rd precinct; and

Whereas: Each precinct has approximately 150 officers, which is a reduction of more than 60 officers in both precincts since 2002; and

Whereas: This is a serious public safety concern for Washington Heights-Inwood, which has suffered increased drug activity, noise and other quality of life problems, now therefore be it

Resolved: Manhattan Community Board 12 strongly recommends the City immediately increase the number of police officers in both the 33rd and 34th precincts.

We look forward to your response in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Governor George Pataki
U. S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
U. S. Senator Charles E. Schumer
State Senator Eric Schneiderman
State Senator David Paterson
Congressman Charles Rangel

Assembly Member Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Assembly Member Adriano Espaillat
Borough President C. Virginia Fields
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Miguel Martinez
Chief Raymond Diaz, Manhattan North Patrol

Martin Collins, Chair



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November 1, 2005

Robert Gormley, Esq.
Department of Consumer Affairs
42 Broadway (9th Floor)
New York, NY 10004

Re: Vida Café Inc. (DBA: Mamajuana Restaurant) Unenclosed Café Application

Dear Mr. Gormley:

Community Board passed the following resolution at its October 27, 2005 General Meeting with a vote of 28 in favor and 5 opposed.

Whereas: The owners (Erick Caceres, Victor Osorio) of Vida Café Inc. (DBA: Mamajuana Restaurant) located at 247 Dyckman Street applied to the Dept. Consumer Affairs to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 26 tables and 64 seats; and

Whereas: Eric Caceres discussed the plans to operate the sidewalk café with Community Board 12's Economic Development and Traffic & Transportation Committees on October 11, 2005; and

Whereas: Mr. Caceres answered all questions from the committee and members of the public regarding the operation of the unenclosed sidewalk café; and

Whereas: Mr. Caceres volunteered to participate in the City's Adopt-a-Basket Program and committed to keeping the outdoor café area clean at all times; and

Whereas: The Economic Development Committee favored the application and the Traffic & Transportation Committee opposed it, and a majority of the group of the Committees combined favored it; therefore

Be It Resolved: Community Board 12 recommends the Department of Consumer Affairs grant Vida Café Inc. (DBA: Mamajuana Restaurant) a license to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 26 tables and 64 seats.

Sincerely,

Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Borough President C. Virginia Fields
Congressman Charles Rangel
Senator Eric Schneiderman
Assembly Member Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Assembly Member Adriano Espaillat

Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Miguel Martinez
Acting Commissioner Jonathan Mintz
Assistant Commissioner Alba Pico
Vida Café Inc.

Martin Collins, Chair



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November 1, 2005

Mayor Michael Bloomberg
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Council Member Robert Jackson
751 West 183rd Street
New York, NY 10033

Council Member Miguel Martinez
601 West 174th Street
New York, NY 10033

Re: Renovation of the Washington Heights Library

Dear Mayor Bloomberg, Council Member Jackson and Council Member Martinez:

Community Board 12 unanimously passed the following resolution at its General Meeting on October 27, 2005:

Whereas: Community Board 12 (CB12) strongly supports the renovation and upgrade of the Washington Heights Library (at 1000 St. Nicholas Avenue), and

Whereas: The building in which the Washington Heights Library is situated is nearly 100 years old and has many outstanding physical repairs and plans to make the facility American With Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, and

Whereas: The Washington Heights Library has to date received funding to complete only a partial renovation; now therefore be it

Resolved: CB12 strongly supports the restoration of all funding for the Washington Heights Library to complete its physical repairs and make the library ADA-compliant.

Sincerely,

Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Borough President C. Virginia Fields
Congressman Charles Rangel
Senator Eric Schneiderman
Assembly Member Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Assembly Member Adriano Espaillat
Paul LeClerc, President & Chief Executive Officer, The New York Public Library
Lynn Opjante, Supervising Branch Librarian, Washington Heights Branch Library

Martin Collins, Chair



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November 1, 2005

Governor George E. Pataki
The Executive Chamber, Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Resolution on Restoration of Home Rule over NYC Rent & Eviction Laws

Dear Governor Pataki:

Community Board 12 unanimously passed the following resolution at its October 27, 2005 General Meeting:

WHEREAS, New York City should have the power, through its duly elected mayor and duly elected City Council, to determine the shape and scope of its rent and eviction regulation laws; and

WHEREAS, New York City had such home rule power prior to 1971, and using that power enacted both the City Rent and Rehabilitation Law (city rent control) of 1962 and the Rent Stabilization Law of 1969; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature and Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller enacted legislation in 1971 – known as the Urstadt Law, named for Rockefeller's housing commissioner Charles J. Urstadt – that severely curtailed the City's home rule powers by prohibiting enactment of laws or regulations to strengthen the city rent laws but allowing enactment of laws or regulations to weaken the city rent laws; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature and Governor George E. Pataki tightened the Urstadt Law in 2003 by prohibiting the City Council and Mayor from enacting any law or regulation affecting rents and evictions, except for periodic renewal of the city rent laws and decontrol of classes of housing; and

WHEREAS, for 34 years the City of New York and its residents have been forced to bargain with upstate legislators whose districts do not include a single rent-regulated apartment over matters that should properly be determined by duly elected New York City officials; and

WHEREAS, for 34 years the New York City real estate industry has donated staggering sums of money to the campaigns of these same upstate legislators to prevent repeal of the Urstadt Law; and

WHEREAS, the New York City Council passed a resolution in 2003, and a home rule message in 2005, calling on the State Legislature and Governor to repeal the Urstadt Law and restore home rule powers over rents and evictions to the duly elected New York City officials; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Assembly has, for the past 12 years, passed a bill to repeal the Urstadt Law and restore home rule powers over its rent laws to the City of New York; and

WHEREAS, the leadership of the New York State Senate has refused to allow bills to repeal the Urstadt Law to be released from committee and thus allow such bills to be debated by the members of the Senate; and

Martin Collins, Chair

WHEREAS, the stock of rent-controlled and rent-stabilized housing constitutes the largest and most important stock of affordable rental housing in New York City, with one of every three city residents living in these apartments; and

WHEREAS, this stock of affordable housing is being constantly reduced by various decontrol amendments enacted by the New York State Legislature and the New York City Council over the past twelve years, the most harmful of which has been high rent vacancy decontrol, allowing the permanent deregulation of vacant rent-regulated units when the legal rent reaches \$2,000 per month; and

WHEREAS, credible analyses of the impact of these decontrol mechanisms have shown that at a minimum the City of New York has lost 200,000 affordable apartments over the past decade, as rent-regulated apartments are converted on vacancy to deregulated, free market units; and

WHEREAS, credible analyses of the impact of these decontrol mechanisms have shown that the pace of vacancy decontrol has accelerated; and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for government to review and evaluate the shape and scope of rent and eviction regulation laws in New York City; and

WHEREAS, this process of review and evaluation is a proper concern for the duly elected officials of New York City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Manhattan Community Board 12 calls on the New York State Legislature and Governor to enact legislation to repeal the Urstadt Law and restore home rule powers to the Mayor and New York City Council; and calls on the Mayor of New York City to make enactment of this legislation a top priority for the City of New York.

Sincerely,



Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Senator Joseph L. Bruno, President Pro Tempore & Majority Leader, The State Senate
Assembly Member Sheldon Silver, Speaker, New York State Assembly
Congressman Charles Rangel
Senator Eric Schneiderman
Senator David Paterson
Assembly Member Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Assembly Member Adriano Espaillat
Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Borough President C. Virginia Fields
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Miguel Martinez



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Commissioner Matthew W. Daus
Taxi & Limousine Commission
40 Rector Street
New York, NY 10006

Dear Commissioner Daus:

Community Board 12 passed the following resolution at its October 27, 2005 General Meeting with a vote of 20 in favor, 5 opposed, 8 abstentions and 0 not voting due to conflict of interest.

- Whereas: The owners of Discovery Transportation, a new limousine base located at 147 Post Avenue (between 207th & Isham Streets at Tenth Avenue) presented their application to a joint meeting of the Economic Development and Traffic & Transportation Committees of Community Board 12, Manhattan on October 11, 2005, and
- Whereas: A petition signed by 180 local residents opposing this base at this location was presented to the Board and open for inspection at the meeting, and
- Whereas: Discovery Transportation described several innovations that will allow them to provide enhanced and safer service, including:
- GPS tracking to dispatch the closest available car thus preventing cars racing from one end of the community to another to pick up fares.
 - Fifteen (15) reserved off-street parking spaces to prevent vehicular congestion in the vicinity of the base station.
 - A fleet of new vehicles, including an ADA-compliant van.
 - Trained owner-operators who understand that excellent service will enhance their business, and
- Whereas: The location of the proposed base is in an area of high traffic congestion, next to the 207th Street bridge and at a complicated intersection, and
- Whereas: Tenth Avenue, which is adjacent to the proposed site, is undergoing major reconstruction that will last two years, and
- Whereas: The area and community are already saturated with a plethora of livery cars, specifically fifteen (15) bases with more than 2,500 vehicles, and
- Whereas: Along with the aforementioned petition, a large contingent of the neighborhood attending this meeting argued against this additional base, and

Martin Collins, Chair

Whereas: The Economic Development Committee favored the application and the Traffic & Transportation Committee opposed it, and a majority of the group of the Committees combined opposed it, therefore

Be It Resolved: That Community Board 12, Manhattan recommends that this application for a new limousine base in our community be denied.

Sincerely,

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

Martin Collins
Chair

Cc: Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Borough President C. Virginia Fields
Congressman Charles Rangel
Senator Eric Schneiderman
Assembly Member Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Assembly Member Adriano Espaillat
Council Member Miguel Martinez
Council Member Robert Jackson
Discovery Transportation Corp.