



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

530 West 166th St. 6th Floor, New York, NY 10032

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

Website: www.nyc.gov/mcb12

George Fernández Jr. - Chairman
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

July 1, 2015

John McAvoy
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Consolidated Edison, Inc.
4 Irving Place, Room 700
New York, NY, 10003

Rick D. Chandler, P.E
DOB Commissioner
280 Broadway
New York, NY, 10007

Dear Chairman McAvoy and Commissioner Rick D:

Please be advised that at the General Meeting Tuesday, June 23, 2015 Community Board 12 Manhattan passed a resolution by a vote of (36) In Favor, (0) Opposed, (0) Abstain, urging Con Edison to report within twenty four hours gas leaks or emergency gas shutoffs to the NYC Department of Buildings, alert tenants and expedite repairs.

Whereas, In response to recent gas line explosions, associated fires and loss of life and property in our city the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration (PHMSA) has changed the definition of a gas service line from the outermost location of the building to where the meter is located and requires that utilities take on expanded responsibilities in performing leakage surveys and corrosion inspections up to that meter; and

Whereas, The NYS Department of Public Service (PSC) enacted this additional oversight into its rules and regulations Con Edison testified that it had in its service territory about "800,000 inside building meter sets, located in more readily accessible building areas (e.g., basements), and over 200,000 inside meter sets inside apartments" and such additional responsibilities would cost the utility \$55 million dollars annually; and

Whereas, Con Edison is now required to make reports to the PSC about the number, site location, monitoring, repair history of all gas leaks, gas odors, the results of leakage surveys and inspections of the city's gas pipelines for corrosion there is still a need to strengthen this oversight by early reporting and better transparency and alerts to building tenants and the public; and

Whereas, An increase in emergency calls of gas odors, 311 complaints and inspections have uncovered more illegal gas hookups, gas leaks from corrosive and aged pipeline infrastructure and in some cases excavations; and

Whereas, There have been long delays between Con Edison reporting gas shut offs to city agencies, primarily to the Department of Buildings (DOB) and usually only when a property owner has hired a contractor and requests a permit; and

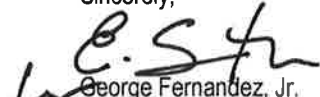
Whereas, This early delay has been a disadvantaged to building tenants seeking a quick resolution for gas restoration services as it adds to the time required for pipeline repair, integrity testing and final certifications from DOB and Con Edison; **now, therefore be it**

Resolved, Community Board 12, Manhattan urges Con Edison, to report their findings to the NYC Department of Buildings and affected tenants within twenty four (24) hours upon their initial discovery and inspection of any confirmed gas leaks and their

types, gas odors or illegal gas hookups with their exact locations down to the building, street address or the apartment/unit meter location and their work order numbers; **and be it further**

Resolved, Community Board 12, Manhattan requests Con Edison to also report and publish the history of gas pipeline inspections, gas leakage repairs, and illegal gas hookups on a daily basis with traceable work order numbers and their status, expedite repairs and backlogs and requests that the Public Service Commission to promptly incorporate these requests into its rules and regulations.

Sincerely,


George Fernandez, Jr.
Chair

cc: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Gail Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Charles B. Rangel, Congressman

Hon. Adriano Espaillat, NY State Senator
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Assembly Member
Hon. Guillermo Linares, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member