



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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Eleazar Bueno, Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

February 3, 2020

Hon. Bill de Blasio
Mayor
City Hall
New York, N Y 11201

Hon. Cyrus Vance Jr.
Manhattan District Attorney
2 Broadway
New York, N Y 10004

Re: Resolution in Support of the Jewish Communities of Washington Heights/Inwood in response to the increase in Anti-Semitic Attacks.

Dear Mayor De Blasio and DA Vance:

At the General Meeting, Tuesday, January 28, 2020 with a vote of 40 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed the following resolution, urging its elected officials and government to take all appropriate measures to prosecute those who persecute others to the fullest extent of the law, and pledging to stand together with our arms linked in unity to fight anti-Semitism and hate crimes of all types in our District, our City, and our Country, and urging our fellow community members to stand with us calling for increased opportunities for community-wide education not only on the Holocaust but also on the contribution of the Jewish people to these neighborhoods, this City, and the world.

Whereas: Washington Heights and Inwood is home to more than 24 synagogues and congregations of the Jewish faith, as well as Yeshiva University, a world-renowned and prestigious, multifaceted institution that integrates the knowledge of Western civilization and the rich treasures of Jewish culture, with students from around the world to our community; and

Whereas: According to the 2011 Jewish Community Study of New York, the Jewish population in Washington Heights and Inwood soared by 144% between 2002 and 2011, making it the fastest growing Jewish neighborhood in New York. In 2002, it had 9,700 Jewish residents. In 2011 it reached 23,700 and continued steady growth towards the end of the decade; and

Whereas: During the period of world wars and international instability, Washington Heights and Inwood became havens for populations fleeing as refugees from wars, escaping oppressive regimes, and simply hoping for a better life for their families; and

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Whereas: Early institutions, such as the YM/YWHA, focused heavily on the resettlement of refugees from WWI and WWII making upper Manhattan home to the most German refugees in the country in the 1930's and 1940's supporting Jewish refugees from Russia and the Former Soviet Union in the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's; and

Whereas: In recent months our country has witnessed an unprecedented increase in crimes directed toward our Jewish neighbors and fellow Americans, specifically: the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting on October 27, 2018, the Jersey City Kosher grocery store shooting on December 10, 2019, and most recently the stabbings in Monsey at a synagogue during Chanukah on December 28, 2019; and

Whereas: In light of these recent events and due to the fact that anti-Semitic crimes have jumped 21% in the past year, a communal event was organized on January 2, 2020 by Congressman Adriano Espaillat with representation from numerous local, City-wide and New York State elected officials in order to address the spike of anti-Semitic attacks in our city and state by prosecuting the attackers, building greater community relations across religions, and additional education in our public schools; and

Whereas: Community Board 12, Manhattan is interested in the safety of all the residents in our neighborhoods, regardless of religion, race, or any other demographic descriptor; now, therefore be it

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan urges all its elected officials and government to take all appropriate measures to prosecute those who fully persecute others of the law; and be it further;

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan pledges to stand together with our arms linked in unity to fight anti-Semitism and hate crimes of all types in our District, our City, and our Country, and urges our fellow community members to stand with us; and be it further;

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Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan calls for increased opportunities for community-wide education not only on the Holocaust but also on the contribution of the Jewish people to these neighborhoods, this City, and the world.

Sincerely,



Eleazar Bueno
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman

Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator
Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator
Hon. Alfred Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodríguez, Council Member

