



## Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

530 West 166<sup>th</sup> St. 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10032  
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Richard R. Lewis, Chairperson  
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

January 23, 2019

Hon. Andy Byford  
President MTA New York City Transit  
130 Livingston Street  
Brooklyn, N Y 11201

Hon. Fernando Ferrer  
Acting Chairman  
130 Livingston Street  
Brooklyn, N Y 11201

### Re: **Resolution regarding the Closures at Five Subway Stations in Washington Heights in Connection with Elevator Replacements Projects**

Dear President Andy Byford and Chairman Ferrer:

At the General Meeting, Tuesday, January 22, 2019 Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed the following resolution with a vote of 34 in favor, 2 opposed, 3 abstention, calling upon Governor Cuomo and the MTA to work together to arrange for an independent review of the MTA's plan for the replacement of the elevators at five subway stations in Washington Heights, and increasing ADA accessibility to the platforms; and calling upon the deans of the engineering schools at Columbia and Cornell universities to assist in this independent review of the MTA's plan.

**Whereas:** The MTA closed the 168<sup>th</sup> Street station on the #1 line as of January 5, 2019 for one year to facilitate the replacement of the elevators that serve that station; and

**Whereas:** The MTA also plans to replace the elevators at four other stations in Washington Heights over the next three years and likewise to drastically limit access to those stations – and in one case, close the station entirely – while this work is underway; and

**Whereas:** While upgrading the elevators is very important and much appreciated, closing these stations or the entrances used by people who live in the higher elevations on both sides of Washington Heights will disrupt the lives of tens of thousands of residents, employees, students, visitors and others, and seriously diminish the quality of life for people in this community for an extended period of time; and

**Whereas:** Governor Cuomo recently intervened in a somewhat similar situation regarding the planned 15-month shutdown of the L train between Manhattan and Brooklyn, and after consulting with the deans of the

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engineering schools at Columbia and Cornell universities and others, developed a plan that will avoid the complete shutdown of the service between the two boroughs; and

**Whereas:** This positive outcome showed that it could be very helpful and in the public interest to have an independent review of the MTA's construction plans by outside experts; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved:** Community Board 12-Manhattan calls upon Governor Cuomo and the MTA to work together to arrange for an independent review of the MTA's plan for the replacement of the elevators at the five subway stations in the hope of reducing its disruptive impact on our community and to increase ADA accessibility to the platforms; and be it further

**Resolved:** Community Board 12-Manhattan calls upon the deans of the engineering schools at Columbia and Cornell universities to assist in this independent review of the MTA's plan.

Sincerely,



Richard R. Lewis  
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Polly Trottenberg, DOT Commissioner  
Edward Pincar, DOT Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor  
Office of Public Advocate  
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller  
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman  
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator  
James J. Valentini, Dean Columbia University  
Vijay Pendakur, Dean Cornell University  
Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator  
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member  
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member  
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member  
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member  
Hon. Fernando Ferrer, Chairman MTA  
Hon. Victor Calise, Commissioner MOPD  
Edith Prentiss, NYSILC Council Member &  
President of Disabled in Action