



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq., Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

February 1, 2017

Charlie Reynoso
Community Engagement Manager
New York Restoration Project
254 West 31st Street 10th Floor
New York, NY 10001

Re: Letter Supporting New York Restoration Project's Grant Application for Woodlands Restoration in Highbridge Park

Dear Mr. Reynoso:

At the Executive Committee meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2017 Community Board 12, Manhattan passed the following resolution with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0, abstention, supporting the New York Restoration Project's proposal for woodland restoration in Highbridge Park along the Harlem River. This Executive Committee action was ratified at the January 24, 2017 Community Board 12, Manhattan General Meeting with a vote of 36 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention, and 1 not voting due to conflict.


- Whereas: the New York Restoration Project ("NYRP") has been a dedicated champion of open space in northern Manhattan for more than 20 years, helping to reclaim and maintain parkland in Highbridge, Fort Washington and Fort Tryon Parks, and in Sherman Creek, in collaboration with New York City's Department of Parks & Recreation ("NYC Parks") to enhance places of incredible beauty for better community and recreational use; and
- Whereas: NYRP is applying to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for a grant to aid in a three-year reforestation plan in Highbridge Park to plant more than 1,500 trees of native species and to remove invasive species that choke native trees, decrease visibility and mar the general landscape; and
- Whereas: this plan has been developed in conjunction with NYC Parks' Forestry and Natural Resources Division, and NYRP will be working under the oversight of NYC Parks, the steward of these public lands, which is deeply invested in the care and maintenance of New York City's open spaces; and
- Whereas: Community Board 12, Manhattan ("CB12M") is grateful for the work the NYRP has done and plans to do as it has improved and will continue to improve the beauty, enjoyment and public safety of our parks, including helping to restore some of New York City's most vibrant natural forests to their former glory and returning open and green waterfront access to the Washington Heights & Inwood communities of Community District 12, Manhattan; and
- Whereas: CB12M has helped NYRP to publicize many events in our parks over the last two decades and previously has supported NYRP's work in our parks through resolutions passed in September 2011 and April 2015; now, therefore, be it

Mr. Charlie Reynoso
February 1, 2017
Page 2

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan supports the New York Restoration Project's proposal for woodland restoration in Higbridge Park along the Harlem River to restore that area of the park through the ongoing management of invasive species and planting of native tree varieties; and be it further

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan urges the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to approve NYRP's grant application.

Sincerely,



Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq.
Chairperson

cc: Mitchell J. Silver, Commissioner NYC Parks
Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Gale Brewer, Borough President

Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman
Hon. Bill Perkins, State Senator
Hon. Marisol Alcantara, State Senator
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member