



## 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 29, 2019

Hon. Vincent Pullo  
Commissioner  
NYC Department of Homeless Services  
33 Beaver Street, 17<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York, NY 10004

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### **Re: Resolution in Support of Issuing a Stay of Eviction of Growth & Development Services Community Based Organization Occupying Space at the Fort Washington Armory.**

Dear Commissioner Pullo:

At its General Meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, with a vote of 37 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions, 3 not voting, Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed a resolution requesting a stay of eviction of Growth & Development Services from their space at the Fort Washington Armory which operates under the governance of the Department of Homeless Services without comment to any pending litigation.

**Whereas**, Growth and Development Services – GDS- (a CD12 based Community Based Organization) has operated in the community for 22 years (16 at the Fort Washington Armory) providing counseling services for youth, families and seniors, youth, an array of wellness programming, community advocacy and other forms of engagement to various demographics in the Northern Manhattan community; and

**Whereas**, the abrupt 30-day DSS eviction of GDS only gives one reason, which is that the license is revocable by either party within 30 days will immediately impact services being provided to those participating in the Excel Alive Inside Intergenerational music/memory program (Partnership with Riverstone and the Alive Inside Coalition) and the Reach Your Potential initiatives; and

**Whereas**, the matter of building governance (inclusive of licensing issues) which is the charge of Department of Homeless Services was brought to the attention Community Board 12, Manhattan by multiple community members (GDS included) over the course of years; and

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**Whereas**, a group of community stakeholders presented the license of the Fort Washington Armory (obtained by FOIL) at the October 2018 general meeting requesting to be put on CB12 calendar to review the overall governance and CB12 HHS began official review in committee December 6, 2018 (11 days before the eviction was issued) ; and

**Whereas**, GDS has engaged CB12 members, DHS/HRA/DSS officials and elected officials seeking relief/advocacy for concerns and impact to the operation of GDS related to said governance over a number of years; and

**Whereas**, the mailing was not delivered timely or properly served on GDS as received on December 22nd at the Fort Washington Armory and instead was withheld until January 3rd; and

**Whereas**, the findings of the CB12 HHS process can result in a possible future resolution and should be included in conversations related to governance, space allocation and determinations made regarding the Fort Washington Armory and its occupants; and

**Be It Resolved**, that Community Board 12, Manhattan requests a stay of eviction of Growth & Development Services from their space at the Fort Washington Armory which operates under the governance of the Department of Homeless Services and is located at 216 Fort Washington in the CB12 district.

Sincerely,



Richard R. Lewis  
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor  
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor  
Hon. Public Advocate  
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller  
Hon. Gale Brewer, Borough President  
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman  
Hon. Steve Banks, Commissioner DHS  
Dr. Gary Altheim, GDS

Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator  
Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator  
Hon. Alfred Taylor, Assembly Member  
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member  
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member  
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member  
Hon. Steven Banks, Commissioner NYC HRA  
Glennis Aquino, Ft. Washington Armory