Carter Booth, *Chair*
Daniel Miller, *First Vice Chair*
Susan Kent, *Second Vice Chair*
Bob Gormley, *District Manager*

Antony Wong, *Treasurer*
Valerie De La Rosa, *Secretary*
Amy Brenna, *Assistant Secretary*

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE
NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899
www.cb2manhattan.org
P: 212-979-2272 **F**: 212-254-5102 **E:** info@cb2manhattan.org
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March 31, 2021

Jonnel Doris
Commissioner
Dept. of Small Business Services
One Liberty Plaza, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10006

Jackie Mallon
First Deputy Commissioner
Dept. of Small Business Services
One Liberty Plaza, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10006

Donald Giampietro
Assistant Commissioner,
Incentives and Resiliency SBS
One Liberty Plaza, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10006

Dear Commissioner Doris, First Deputy Commissioner Mallon, and Assistant Commissioner Giampietro:

At its Full Board meeting March 18th, 2021, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Equity Surrounding Grant Money for Small Businesses

Whereas

1. Community Board 2 (CB2) invited community leaders, CBO's, Asian-owned businesses and members of the Chinatown community to discuss the inequity in loan distribution intended to help small businesses in lower-income neighborhoods and communities of color that excluded a portion of Manhattan's Chinatown; and
2. In November 2020, the city's Department of Small Business Services (SBS) launched a $35 million low-to-moderate income storefront loan program. Small businesses in certain neighborhoods could receive up to $100,000 in a zero-interest loan. The funds would provide loans for at least 350 businesses across the city, depending on the size of loans allocated; But some zip codes, which include neighborhoods with higher median incomes, were left out; and
3. Businesses located within the Community Board 2 section of Chinatown, including Mott, Elizabeth, Mulberry, Baxter Streets south of Broome, Canal Street west of Bowery, the west side of the Bowery, Bayard, Pell, Mosco, various blocks surrounding Columbus Park and Doyers Streets have been excluded from this crucial stimulus aid because they share the zip code 10013 with the high-income neighborhoods of SoHo, Tribeca and NoLita; and

4. In addition to these affluent locals, the zip code 10013 includes the historic working-class core of Chinatown; and
5. Asians are the fastest growing racial/ethnic population in New York City and comprise 15.5% of CB2[1]; and
6. Proportionately, New York City Asians also have the highest percentage of people living in poverty.[2]
7. Even before the rest of New York City, residents, workers and businesses in Chinatown felt the full brunt of the Covid-19 crisis including economic devastation, racial violence/bias and loss of life; and
8. As of March 10th 2021, over 17 Chinatown restaurants and 139 ground-floor stores have permanently closed due to the pandemic[3]; and
9. Business for Chinatown restaurants has dropped by 40%, amounting to a 70-80% loss in sales since the Lunar New Year celebrations began at the end of January 2020[4]; and
10. Popular establishments within this zip code include Kam Hing, Sweet Moment, Shanghai Heping Restaurant, Royal Seafood Restaurant, XO Kitchen, Da Long Yi Hot Pot, YaYa Tea and The Chai Spot that could have benefited from this loan were not given an opportunity to apply; and
11. The city's population database shows this part of Chinatown, census tract 29, has a median household income of ~$27,000, nearly 42% of families rely on social security and almost 47% received food stamp benefits in the past year, yet the businesses in that part of Chinatown did not qualify under the rules of the loan[5].

Therefore, be it resolved that CB2 urges the Mayor, elected officials and SBS:

1. Discontinue the use of zip codes as an indicator of need or eligibility in future relief programs; and
2. Amend the eligibility criteria for the NYC LMI Storefront Loan program to include all storefronts located in census tracts designated as low or moderate income, so that all deserving businesses and communities get a fair shot to apply; and
3. Incorporate eligibility and application periods for a more equitable distribution of loans/financial assistance thereby discontinuing the use of the first come first serve approach.
4. Ensure that multilingual printed materials, i.e., press releases and informational materials are submitted to Chinese language newspapers, television, radio and CBOs, are routinely available; and
5. That local community organizations engage Chinatown community organizations to determine which businesses are most in need; and
6. Enlist/Commission Chinatown CBOs like Welcome to Chinatown, Chinese American Planning Council and the Chinatown Core Block Association to perform outreach for future grant opportunities like the American Rescue Plan, distribute materials within the community, and equip these organizations to offer application help.

Vote: Unanimous, 44 Board Members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,

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[1] https://communityprofiles.planning.nyc.gov/manhattan/2

[2] http://www.roosevelthouse.hunter.cuny.edu/?forum-post=researching-asian-poverty-new-york

[3] https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/10/nyregion/chinatown-restaurant-closures-coronavirus.html

[4] https://www.restaurant-hospitality.com/food-drink/how-coronavirus-turned-chinatown-ghost-town-sales-drop-70-chinatown-restaurants-new-york

[5] https://gothamist.com/news/city-excludes-parts-chinatown-small-business-pandemic-loans-intended-lower-income-neighborhoods

Carter Booth, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

Patricia Laraia, Co-Chair
Equity Working Group
Community Board #2, Manhattan

Mar Fitzgerald, Co-Chair
Equity Working Group
Community Board #2, Manhattan

CB/EM

cc: Hon. Andrew Cuomo, NY State Governor
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NY State Senator
Hon. Yuh-Line Niou, NY State Assembly Member
Hon. Bill de Blasio, NYC Mayor
Hon. Scott Stringer, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Corey Johnson, NYC Council Speaker
Hon. Jumaane Williams, NYC Public Advocate
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member
Dr. Cheryl Wu, Ameranth Pediatrics
Jan Lee, The Chinatown Core BA
Victoria Lee, Head of Business Development & Operations, Welcome to Chinatown
Kevin Tse, Deputy Director Education, Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)
Renny Fong, Principal, PS 130 Hernando De Soto
Chloe Chik
Shino Tanikawa, Community Education Council District 2

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March 31, 2021

Dr. Howard A. Zucker
Commissioner, Dept. of Health
Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

Dr. Olusimbo Ige
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Health Equity Capacity Building at
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
42-09 28th Street
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dr. Jane Zucker
Assistant Commissioner
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
42-09 28th Street
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Commissioner Zucker, Assistant Commissioner Ige, and Assistant Commissioner Jane Zucker:

At its Full Board meeting March 18th, 2021, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Equitable Distribution of Vaccine in Asian Communities

Whereas:

1. Community Board 2 (CB2) invited businesses, CBOs and members of the Asian community to discuss how COVID-19 pandemic has affected the distribution of vaccines in Chinatown; and
2. There are no interpreters, signage or translated materials at the vaccine sites; and
3. Cheryl Wu, MD, of Amaranth Pediatrics, Yolanda Tun-Chiong, DO, of Urban Medical Group, Amy Wu, MD, of SoHo Otolaryngology, among many other practicing physicians in Chinatown, have applied like to be distribution sites, with no response from the city;
4. Community practices and physicians' offices (especially those already registered with City Immunization Registry (CIR) already have the equipment (freezers, temperature monitors, needles), personnel (vaccinators and counselors), pipeline (hours to receive vaccines, cold chain maintenance training), and location (office space, exam room, observation area) for vaccination sites; and
5. People who have 100% access to vaccines (nonphysician healthcare workers), 40% of them decline to be vaccinated; based on survey, 50% of Americans said they will decline the Covid-19 vaccine[1]; and

[1] https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccination-demographic

6. There is already a large discrepancy between individuals from underserved communities (Black, Hispanic, Medicaid, impoverished, and undocumented) vaccination rates from those who are better resourced and privileged[2]; and
7. Every primary care physician knows who their most vulnerable patient population is – those who have chronic medical conditions, those who are frequently admitted to the hospital or have significant risks for medical complications from Covid-19, and will call them to come and get the vaccine; whereas, the current vaccination sites will NOT capture that population, and the physicians' offices know who they are; and
8. Patients have trust/relationship with their primary care providers and will feel more comfortable receiving the vaccine by a trusted medical provider; and
9. Community practices and physicians already have the relationship, trust, and knowledge of their patients to provide and counsel on vaccination.

Therefore, be it resolved that CB2 implores the Governor, the Mayor and elected officials to provide:

1. Funding to Chinatown community-based organizations (CBO's) that provide critical translation services for immigrant and communities; and
2. Create and institute one standard vaccine intake form available for all vaccine distribution sites and providers citywide; and
3. Provide up-to-date informational materials, (i.e., intake forms, flyers, pamphlets, signage etc…) in a multitude of languages and specific to the community being served at each location when possible; and
4. Smaller vaccine sites in marginalized neighborhoods, and provide data to accurately reflect the numbers in those communities.
5. Answer the local physicians who have said they are ready to vaccinate their patients at their regular offices.

Vote: Unanimous, 44 Board Members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,

Carter Booth, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

Patricia Laraia, Co-Chair
Equity Working Group
Community Board #2, Manhattan

Mar Fitzgerald, Co-Chair
Equity Working Group
Community Board #2, Manhattan

[2] https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/latest-data-on-covid-19-vaccinations-race-ethnicity/

CB/EM

cc: Hon. Andrew Cuomo, NY State Governor
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NY State Senator
Hon. Yuh-Line Niou, NY State Assembly Member
Hon. Bill de Blasio, NYC Mayor
Hon. Scott Stringer, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Corey Johnson, NYC Council Speaker
Hon. Jumaane Williams, NYC Public Advocate
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member
Dr. Cheryl Wu, Ameranth Pediatrics
Jan Lee, The Chinatown Core BA
Victoria Lee, Head of Business Development & Operations, Welcome to Chinatown
Kevin Tse, Deputy Director Education, Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)
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Chloe Chik
Shino Tanikawa, Community Education Council District 2

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March 31, 2021

Letitia James
NYS Attorney General
120 Broadway
New York, NY 10271

Misha Ross Porter
Chancellor, NYC Dept. of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Kelly McGuire
Superintendent, District 2
NYC Department of Education
333 7th Avenue, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10001

Sadye Campoamor
Director of Community Affairs
NYC Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Attorney General James, Chancellor Porter, Superintendent McGuire, and Director Campoamor:

At its Full Board meeting March 18th, 2021, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Anti-Asian Violence & Public Safety in Chinatown

Whereas:

1. Community Board 2 (CB2) invited Asian-owned businesses, Chinatown CBOs, residents and community members to discuss the uptick of racialized violence against Asians; and
2. Since the start of the pandemic in early 2020, hate crimes against Asian Americans have surged 1900%. The number of incidents is now nearly 3800 between March 2020 to the beginning of March 2021, with 503 occurring within just two months into 2021[1].
3. These are a fraction of the actual number of incidents that have occurred, as the majority of incidents go unreported. For example, over 90% of the reports collected by Asian American Federation (AAF) were not reported to either the NYPD or NYC Commission on Human Rights"; and
4. Then former President Donald Trump deliberately used the expression “Chinese virus” more than 20 times between March 16 and March 30[2]; and

[1] https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/there-were-3-800-anti-asian-racist-incidents-mostly-against-n1261257

[2] https://theconversation.com/donald-trumps-chinese-virus-the-politics-of-naming-136796

5. The AAF says there were nearly 500 bias incidents or hate crimes in early 2020, ranging from verbal to physical assaults, to being coughed at or spat upon, to shunning, among other forms of discrimination[3]; and
6. In June of 2020, former President Trump's use of the phrase "kung flu" — during a campaign rally in Tulsa drew broad political backlash as a racist slur against Asian Americans[4]; and
7. In August 2020, The NYPD Asian Hate Crime Task Force was created when an Asian woman in her 80s was set on fire in Brooklyn; and
8. Staffed by 25 detectives of Asian descent who speak a combined nine Asian languages, the group is tasked with guiding victims through the justice system, from reporting a crime all the way to prosecution; and
9. In February 2021, a man was stabbed in Chinatown, Manhattan (labeled as a hate crime due the suspect's history of targeting Asians); and
10. A string of shootings at three Asian businesses in the Atlanta area on March 16, 2021 left eight people dead, including 6 women of Asian descent[5]; and
11. NYPD deploys extra officers to Asian American communities in response to this most recent attack against Asians[6]; and
12. Asians are being targeted and singled out. Some victims do not speak English, so they are unable to comprehend and repeat what was said to them, to justify that it was a hate crime; and
13. Many Asian-American citizens and businesses have been the victims of hate crimes created by racist individuals — from the defacement of Chinese-owned storefronts to the physical attacks of Asian individuals; and
14. In January 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed an executive action condemning the racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against the AAPI community that has become prevalent due to fear and ignorance relating to Covid-19; and
15. Called on the Justice Department to collect data on hate crimes and harassment directed at Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI)

Therefore, be it resolved that CB2 implores the Governor, the Mayor and elected officials to:

1. Support local organizations working to fight racism within their communities, and amplifying diverse stories and perspectives like Welcome to Chinatown, Chinese American Planning Council and the Chinatown Core Block Association; and
2. Informing school curricula through Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education (CR-SE) about the rise in hate and bullying against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, examining the systems that perpetuate violence and hate, and finding solutions that are culturally relevant, community centered, and trauma informed; and
3. Provide broader definition and better enforcement of what constitutes a hate crime in the law from the NYPD, and more awareness and support of the NYPD Asian Hate Crime Task Force.

Vote: Unanimous, 44 Board Members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

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[3] https://nynmedia.com/content/new-yorkers-rally-against-anti-asian-hate

[4] https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/with-kung-flu-trump-sparks-backlash-over-racist-language--and-a-rallying-cry-for-supporters/2020/06/24/485d151e-b620-11ea-aca5-ebb63d27e1ff_story.html

[5] https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/17/us/metro-atlanta-shootings-wednesday/index.html

[6] https://bronx.news12.com/nypd-deploys-extra-officers-to-asian-american-communities-after-atlanta-spa-shootings-leave-8-dead

Sincerely,

Carter Booth, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

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