

Tobi Bergman, *Chair*
Terri Cude, *First Vice Chair*
Susan Kent, *Second Vice Chair*
Bob Gormley, *District Manager*



Antony Wong, *Treasurer*
Keen Berger, *Secretary*
Daniel Miller, *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

Greenwich Village ♦ Little Italy ♦ SoHo ♦ NoHo ♦ Hudson Square ♦ Chinatown ♦ Gansevoort Market

February 23, 2016

Hon. Margaret Chin
Council Member
Chatham Green
165 Park Row, Suite #11
New York, NY 10038

Hon. Corey Johnson
Council Member
224 West 30th St., Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001

Dear Hon. Margaret Chin and Hon. Corey Johnson,

At its Full Board meeting February 18, 2016 Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution in support of Judson Memorial Church regarding a request for governmental capital funds to replace its lift with an ADA-compliant elevator.

WHEREAS Judson Memorial Church at 50 Washington Square South commissioned a Conditions Study in 2015 to give an estimate of the building's capital needs for the next 25 years, to make realistic Building Fund projections for the future; and,

WHEREAS Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper and Sr. Administrator Molly Martinez, PhD came before CB2's Arts & Institutions Committee to present a request for CB2's support of requests for governmental capital funds to help replace their lift with an ADA-compliant elevator; and

WHEREAS Judson Memorial Church and Judson Hall and Tower were built in 1892, designed by McKim, Mead & White; and

WHEREAS the current lift serves three of the four levels of the building and does not reach the Loft of the Sanctuary which limits potential public programming, is too small to maneuver most wheelchairs and cannot fit some of today's motorized wheelchairs, and is both slow and unreliable; and

WHEREAS hydraulic lifts can go beyond 3 floors, but building preservation needed to be considered and it was determined that an elevator would be less impactful; and,

WHEREAS since the 1950's, Judson has become known as a home for innovative, often avant-garde, artists in many genres - dance, painting, theater and became one of the three founding venues of "Off-Off Broadway" theater, and later housed the Judson Dance Theater collective that is now recognized as the creators of post-modern dance; and,

WHEREAS Judson representatives presented documentation showing:

- Community/non-worship groups currently represent more than 80% of the uses at the facility, and

- Annual community/non-worship attendance is approx. 91,000 visitors (approx. 1,750 people weekly)
- The facility hosts a multitude of arts, educational and justice-related programs and events for community groups with a breakdown of 66% arts, 20% educational/justice, and 14% worship including internal and external religious groups
- Many of these programs include free food in an effort to reach those in need that may be reluctant to visit soup kitchens; and,

WHEREAS several people who run community/non-religious programs at Judson spoke about the benefits they provide to the community and those they serve, including Megan Kendzior of Movement Research, a dance service organization that has offered a Monday night performance series at Judson for more than twenty-five years; and,

WHEREAS Judson representatives presented the results of a recent feasibility study that stated the costs and lost revenue associated with the construction and installation of a new ADA-compliant elevator would be approximately \$1.5 million, and

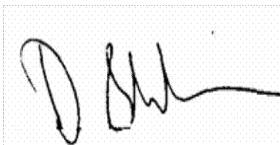
WHEREAS the Judson representatives explained that they are not seeking capital funds that would represent up to 20% of the cost of the elevator that might represent worship-based uses, but rather only for their strong programming of community-based, non-worship uses,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 2 Manhattan strongly supports Judson Memorial Church's requests for the allocation of capital funds from government-based sources for portions of up to 80% (representing non-worship use) of the cost of an ADA-compliant elevator to replace the existing lift.

VOTE: Unanimous, with 35 Board members in favor.

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

Sincerely,



David Gruber, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Robin Rothstein, Chair
Arts and Institutions Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

TB/EM

c: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
Hon. Daniel Squadron, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Member
Hon. Gale Brewer, Man. Borough President