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CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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March 9, 2023

Mitchell Katz, President  
NYC Health & Hospitals Corporation  
50 Water Street  
New York, NY 10004

**Re: Family with children HERC (Humanitarian Emergency Resource Center) at the Watson Hotel – 440 West 57 Street.**

Dear President Katz,

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) presented the use of the Watson Hotel at 440 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street, for a HERC, a shelter for asylum seekers with children to Manhattan Community Board 4's (MCB4) Housing, Health, & Human Services Committee. Committee members reviewed and discussed the HHC program at the and the community concerns at the public meeting. MCB4 applauds HHC's continued outreach to the local community and attempts to resolve concerns and issues and recommends applying HHC's program model to other DHS shelters in Manhattan Community District 4 (MCD4).

At its regularly scheduled Full Board meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, MCB4 voted 36 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote to request that the NYC HHC continue to engage with MCB4 on issues surrounding the temporary shelter for asylum seekers at the Watson Hotel and respond to the community's requests and questions summarized below.

### **Background**

There are currently a total of six HERC shelter sites for asylum seekers in or adjacent to MCD4, with approximately 2,143 beds (in MCD4: Watson Hotel, 440 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street; Skyline Hotel, 725 10<sup>th</sup> Ave; Washington Jefferson Hotel, 318 West 51<sup>st</sup> Street; Econo Lodge, 300 West 47<sup>th</sup> Street; and Artel Hotel, 305 West 39<sup>th</sup> Street; in MCD5: Row Hotel, 700 8<sup>th</sup> Ave; Paramount Hotel, 235 West 46<sup>th</sup> Street; and Stewart Hotel, 371 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and see Appendix for map).

When the Watson Hotel was first opened by HHC in November 2022, it exclusively housed single adult male asylum seekers. The Watson Hotel has 600 rooms for families with children, with around 250 occupied for a total of approximately 870 occupants as of February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023. At minimum, each room will house an adult and a child under the age of 18. Therefore, the population is expected to increase to 1,200 persons.

Before moving the occupants into the Watson Hotel, HHC conducts room maintenance checks, makes bed arrangements to suit family size and provides basic supplies. Each family is given a room assignment, badge and QR code when they enter the Watson Hotel.

Access to diapers and baby formula is immediately provided. 24/7 clinical care is provided at the site, along with childhood vaccination teams to ensure vaccinations required to attend school. DOE enrollment staff are also present to enroll children to school. Most asylum seekers are eligible for emergency Medicaid; therefore, Metro Health has a station on-site for enrollment. Phase 2 of intake includes connection services to help the asylum seekers contact families and friends and be reticketed if needed.

### **Community Concerns & Requests**

- Extend the use of the HHC vaccination clinic to occupants in DHS shelters in Hell's Kitchen as a resource to provide required vaccinations for school attendance.
- Accommodate and coordinate additional after school programs and English learning classes, and tutors with other City agencies.
- Create outdoor open spaces for children and explore programming to engage occupants in common areas.
- PS 33, PS 51, and PS 111 are at or nearly at capacity, averaging 33 students per class. The Board asks HHC to work with DOE to place asylum seeker in schools with available classroom capacity.

### **Community Questions**

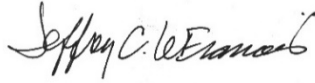
- How many case workers serve asylum seekers at The Watson?
- In the case that asylum seekers are without families or friends in the U.S., what are the plans for relocation and settlement?

### **Conclusion**

MCB4 thanks HHC for their continued engagement with the community and asks HHC to respond to the community concerns and requests as raised by and in response to the opening of the Watson Hotel.

The bigger policy issue raised is how can the City of New York apply HHC's successful, well managed practices to DHS's shelter locations in MCD4?

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board 4



Joe Restuccia  
Co-chair  
Housing Health & Human Services  
Committee



Maria Ortiz  
Co-chair  
Housing Health & Human Services  
Committee

cc:

Zachary Iscol, Commissioner, Office of Emergency Management

Eric Adam, Mayor

Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President

Erik Bottcher, City Councilmember

Gale Brewer, City Councilmember

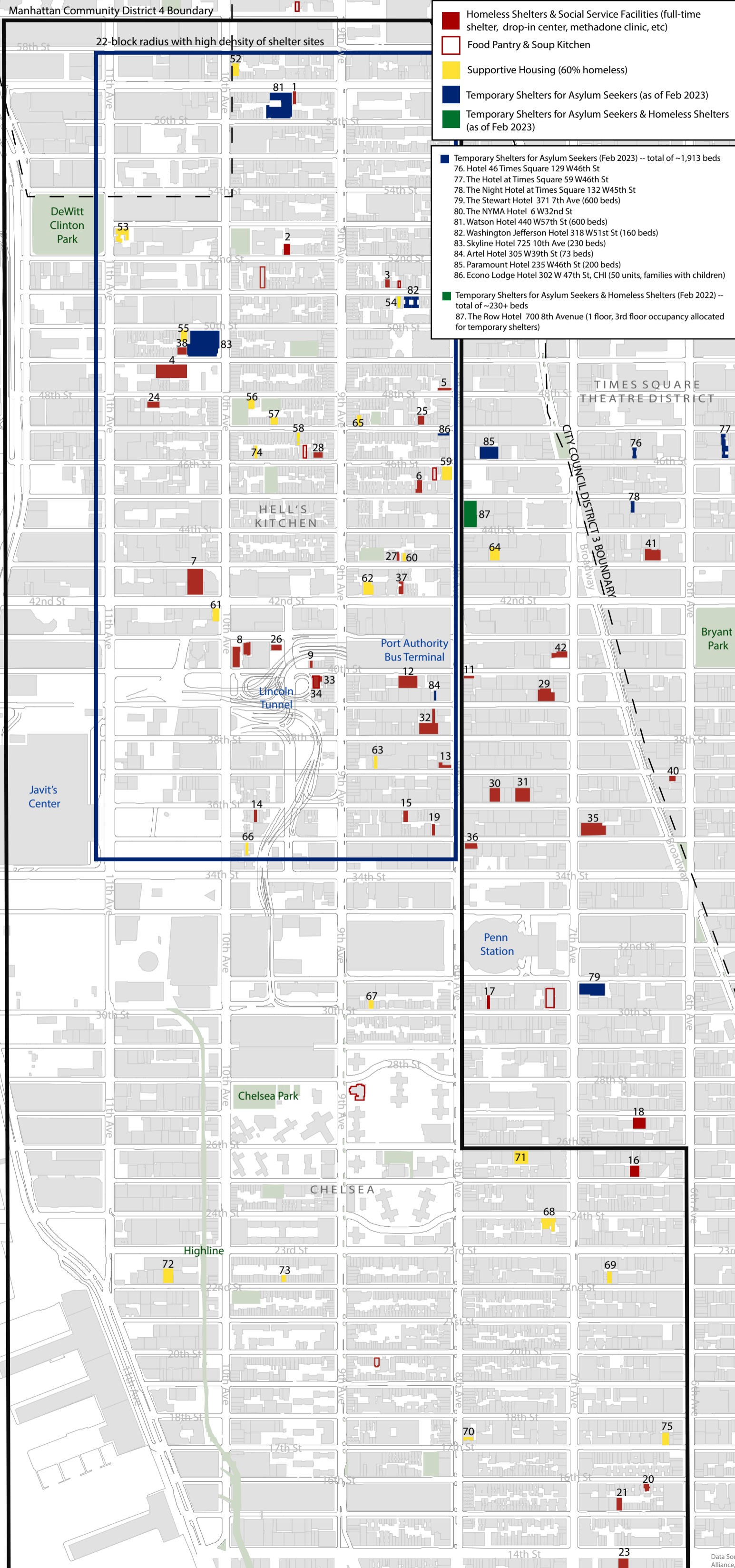
Jerry Nadler, Congressman

Brad Hoylman, NYS State Senator

Linda B. Rosenthal, NYS Assemblymember

Tony Simone, NYS Assemblymember

# West Midtown, Clinton/ Hell's Kitchen & NoMad Temporary Shelters for Asylum Seekers, Social Service Facilities & Supportive Housing (as of February 2023)



- Homeless Shelters & Social Service Facilities (full-time shelter, drop-in center, methadone clinic, etc)
  - Food Pantry & Soup Kitchen
  - Supportive Housing (60% homeless)
  - Temporary Shelters for Asylum Seekers (as of Feb 2023)
  - Temporary Shelters for Asylum Seekers & Homeless Shelters (as of Feb 2023)
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- Temporary Shelters for Asylum Seekers (Feb 2023) -- total of ~1,913 beds
    - 76. Hotel 46 Times Square 129 W46th St
    - 77. The Hotel at Times Square 59 W46th St
    - 78. The Night Hotel at Times Square 132 W45th St
    - 79. The Stewart Hotel 371 7th Ave (600 beds)
    - 80. The NYMA Hotel 6 W32nd St
    - 81. Watson Hotel 440 W57th St (600 beds)
    - 82. Washington Jefferson Hotel 318 W51st St (160 beds)
    - 83. Skyline Hotel 725 10th Ave (230 beds)
    - 84. Artel Hotel 305 W39th St (73 beds)
    - 85. Paramount Hotel 235 W46th St (200 beds)
    - 86. Econo Lodge Hotel 302 W 47th St, CHI (50 units, families with children)
  - Temporary Shelters for Asylum Seekers & Homeless Shelters (Feb 2022) -- total of ~230+ beds
    - 87. The Row Hotel 700 8th Avenue (1 floor, 3rd floor occupancy allocated for temporary shelters)

- Homeless Shelters & Social Service Facilities -- total of ~2,917+ beds
  1. Trinity Presbyterian Church 422 W57th St, Partnership for the Homeless - 10 beds
  2. 52nd Street Women's Shelter 427 W52nd St, Care for the Homeless - 120 beds
  3. Alexander Abraham Residence 341 W51st St, Women in Need - 70 beds
  4. American Red Cross 520 W49th St
  5. Safe Haven 301 W48th St, Urban Pathways - 10 beds
  6. Long Acre Hotel 317 W45th St, CUCS/Urban Pathways - 160 beds
  7. Travel Inn Hotel 515 W42nd St, Acacia - 81 beds
  8. Covenant House 460 W41st St - 120 beds
  9. Dwelling Place 409 W40th St, Franciscan Sisters of Allegany - 15 beds
  10. Main Chance 120 E32nd St - estimate of 250-300 men served a day
  11. Traveler's Hotel 274 W40th St - 36 beds
  12. NY State Parole Board 314 W40th St
  13. Housing Works / Positive Health Project 301 W37th St
  14. Sylvia's Place at Metropolitan Community Church 446 W36th St - 14 beds
  15. Barbour House 330 W36th St, Praxis - 100 beds
  16. Jack Ryan, Bowery Residents Committee (BRC) 131 W25th St & 127 W25th St - 200 beds
  17. Urban Pathways Antonio Olivieri Drop-In Center 257 W30th St
  18. Greenwich House Halfway House 122 W27th St
  19. West Midtown Medical Group 311 W35th St
  20. Young Adult Institute 120 W16th St
  21. Puerto Rico Family Institute 145 W15th St
  22. St. Francis Xavier Church Shelter 30 W16th St - 12 beds
  23. Salvation Army, New York Temple 132 W14th St
  24. Salvation Army Rehabilitation Center 535 W48th St
  25. Salvation Army Center 315 W47th St
  26. DHS Family Shelter 440 W41st St, Westhab - 97 families
  27. 43rd St Veterans Program (Rehab Center), 327 W43rd St Samaritan Daytop Village - 48 beds
  28. Hartley House 413 W46th St
  29. Happy Times Rehab Program 205 W39th St
  30. Addiction Care Interventions Addiction Treatment Center 255 W36th St
  31. New Life Rehab Center 229 W36th St
  32. Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC, AIDS services) and Housing Services United - 307 W38th St
  33. Damayan Migrant Workers Association (services for labor trafficking survivors) 406 W40th St
  34. New Alternatives 410 W40th St
  35. Services for the Underserved 463 Seventh Ave
  36. Lantern Community Services 494 8th Ave
  37. Project Find Coffee House, Holy Cross Church, 329 W42nd St
  38. Homes for the Homeless 519 W49th St - 81 beds
  39. Marcell Hotel E23 Stand 3rd Ave (outside map boundaries)
  40. TCI 1364 Broadway
  41. Woodstock Hotel 127 W43rd St - 283 beds
  42. Shiloh 566 Seventh Ave
  43. Clarion Hotel 429 Park Ave South - estimate of 120 men served
  44. Parallax Center 145 E32nd St - outpatient detox and addiction center
  45. Latham Hotel 4 E28th St - for homeless moms, estimate of 175 beds
  46. Harmonia 12 W31st St - estimate of 150 people
  47. Care for the Homeless 30 E33rd St
  48. Mave Hotel 62 Madison Ave
  49. The Prince George 14 E28th St - 415 beds for formerly homeless men
  50. St Francis 125 E24th St - 300 beds for severely mentally ill homeless men
  51. Hotel 31, 120 E31st St - takes city vouchers for the homeless
- Supportive Housing (60% Homeless) -- total of ~2,090 + beds
  52. The Friedman 475 W 57th St, Common Ground, Actor's Fund - 98 beds
  53. The Flats/Old School 554 W53rd St, CHDC - 52 beds
  54. Stardom Hall 330-332 W51st St, Lantern Group - 112 beds
  55. Postgraduate Center Community Residence 516W 50th St - 20 beds
  56. 448 W48th St, Project Renewal - 41 beds
  57. 441 W47th St, Fountain House - 20 beds
  58. 424 W47th St, Fountain House - 15 beds
  59. 300 W46th St, CHDC - 68 beds
  60. 327 W43rd St, Project Return - 6 beds
  61. 500 W42nd St, CHDC - 66 beds
  62. Geffner House 351 W42nd St, Project Renewal - 313 beds
  63. 347 W37th St, Fountain House - 30 beds
  64. Breaking Ground Times Square 255 W43rd St - 652 beds
  65. Wanaque 359 W47th St, Fountain House - 42 beds
  66. 454 W35th St, CHDC - 53 beds
  67. 353 W30th St, CHDC - 32 beds
  68. Christopher Residence 202 W24th St, Common Ground & Good Shepard - 62 beds
  69. St. Francis II 151 W22nd St, Franciscans - 115 beds
  70. St. Francis III 148 8th Ave, Franciscans - 79 beds
  71. Volunteers of America 226 W26th St - 52 beds
  72. Flemister House 527 W22nd St, American Baptist Churches - 50 beds
  73. Frederic Fleming House 443 W22nd St - 47 beds
  74. Ivan Shapiro House 459 W46 St, Urban Pathways - 47 beds
  75. 105 W17th St - 18 beds

Data Sources: Dept. of City Planning, MCB4, 100 West 16th Block Association, Garment District Alliance, 29th St Neighborhood Association, 36th St Block Association, Hudson Yards/Hell's Kitchen Alliance, W47/48th St Block Association, W55th Street Block Association, Commercial Cafe  
Map created by Savannah Wu, CHDC Community Planner, for MCB4