



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JESSICA CHAIT
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

December 1st, 2025

Hon. Erik Adams
Mayor
City Hall
New York, New York, 10007

Molly Wasow Park
Commissioner
Department of Social Services
150 Greenwich Street, 40th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Dr. Mitchell Katz
President & CEO
Health Hospitals NYC
50 Water Street
New York, New York 10004

Re: The Row Hotel Shelter Closure at 700 8th Avenue

Dear Mayor Adams, Commissioner Park, and President Katz,

At Manhattan Community Board 4's (MCB4) Arts, Culture, Education & Schools Committee meeting on Monday, November 10, 2025, the committee discussed the expedited closure of the Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief Center (HERRC) at the Row NYC, 700 8th Avenue. The original closure timeline of April 2026 and has been moved up to December 31, 2025. MCB4 is grateful for the visit by Jennifer Pringle from Advocates for Children and the PTA from P.S. 51 Elias Howe School.¹

¹ This letter was unanimously approved the November 24th 2025 MCB4 Executive Committee and will be ratified at the December 3rd 2025 Full Board Meeting.

MCB4 has previously communicated the negative and detrimental impact that 60 day eviction policies have on children and families living in shelters, and the school communities they attend, in letters dated [December 20, 2023](#) and [November 15, 2024](#).

On November 7, 2025, MCB4 was informed by the P.S. 51 Elias Howe school community at 525 W. 44th Street, that families residing at the Row are being notified that they must find other living accommodations or be transferred to a Department of Homeless Services (DHS) facility with short notice. The abrupt evictions and likelihood of not returning to their school, due to distant shelter relocation and poor busing, is causing significant distress and worry for migrant students and families. Furthermore, students, parents and guardians are in fear of being arrested and/or separated from their families by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) – who have been observed outside of the hotel – during the moving process.

There are approximately 1,500 children at the Row. Eighty-nine of those children attend PS 51 and represent a quarter of the school's population. Over the past two years, the Principal, teachers, and parents have been working diligently to ensure that all students' basic needs are met by providing additional food and warm clothing to families residing at the Row. These children have formed valuable relationships with their peers and teachers and would greatly benefit from remaining in this caring and close knit community.

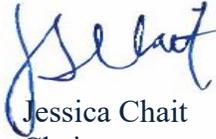
MCB4 is concerned for the welfare of PS 51 children and their families. At its regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting on November 24, 2025, MCB4 voted to request the following from Health & Hospitals and DHS:

- Families at The Row that have children attending PS 51 receive priority to transfer to a DHS facility in the MCB4 district, so students and families can maintain stability in their school community.
- Transportation by a DHS van to a DHS facility be provided for families who apply to be transferred.
- DHS revisit shelter placement on a regular basis so that students have the opportunity to be relocated closer to their school.
- Develop inter agency communication between Health & Hospitals, DHS, the Department of Education (DOE), Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT), Office for Child Care and Early Childhood Education (OCCECE) and others to reduce chronic absenteeism.
- Health & Hospitals and DHS coordinate with the Department of Education to ensure that evictions do not take place when DOE Welcome Centers are closed.

MCB4 understands that successful educational and economic outcomes are directly linked to a child's stability and safety. We are committed to working with Health & Hospitals and DHS to help ensure that families who wish to remain in the PS 51 school community are given shelter

accommodations in close proximity to their school and safe transportation to those facilities. We also urge similar consideration for other school communities within MCB4 where migrant students are enrolled, so that all children can maintain educational continuity and a sense of security.

Sincerely,



Jessica Chait
Chair
Community Board 4



Josephine Ishmon
Co-Chair
ACES Committee



Matt Green
Co-Chair
ACES Committee

CC: Hon. Kathy Hochul, Governor
Melissa Aviles-Ramo, Chansellor, DOE
Hon. Jumaane Williams, New York City Public Advocate
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, State Senate
Hon. Liz Krueger, State Senate
Hon. Tony Simone, State Assembly
Hon. Linda B. Rosenthal, State Assembly
Hon. Erik Bottcher, Council Member
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Council Member
Kelly McGuire, Superintendent, School District 2