

May 7, 2002

Hon. Edwin Méndez-Santiago
Commissioner
Department for the Aging
2 Lafayette Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: Safe Streets Program for the Elderly in Chelsea and Clinton

Dear Commissioner Méndez-Santiago:

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 recognizes the essential value of the preventative and direct services provided by Hudson Guild's Adult Services Program to local seniors. We wish to express our enthusiastic support of Hudson Guild's proposal to continue providing a Safe Street Program.

The Hudson Guild's Safe Streets Program offers both crime prevention services and victim services for community seniors. Crime prevention services for seniors include lectures about avoiding crime, safe streets corridors with local merchants and police enabling senior to go shopping or to the bank, escort services, elder abuse discussion groups, and community outreach. For crime victims, Safe Streets provides counseling services, emergency financial assistance, and referrals. Safe Streets also supplies seniors with security devices, such as locks, for their apartments.

Hudson Guild is a well-established settlement house, with deep roots in the Chelsea community since 1895. It is a pioneer in the field of services to seniors, providing formal programs for the aging population since 1947. The activities and services currently provided by Hudson Guild under their Safe Streets Program significantly support the safety and security of our older neighbors.

This Board is deeply committed to ensuring that all seniors, especially our low and moderate income residents, maintain secure and active lives in our community, and we believe that Guild's services support this goal.

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Therefore, we urge the Department for the Aging to approve Hudson Guild's application to continue providing a Safe Streets Program.

Sincerely,

Simone Sinden

Chair

Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Joe Catrambone

Co-Chair

Health & Human Services Committee

This letter was passed at Manhattan Community Board No. 4's May 1, 2002 full board meeting.

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Jerrold Nadler, United States Representative
Hon. Tom Duane, State Senator
Hon. Eric Schneiderman, State Senator
Hon. Deborah Glick, State Assemblymember
Hon. Richard Gottfried, State Assemblymember
Hon. Scott Stringer, State Assemblymember
Hon. Christine Quinn, City Councilmember
Hudson Guild