

December 5, 2002

Linda Gibbs
Commissioner
Department of Homeless Services
33 Beaver Street
New York, NY 10004

Re: Urban Pathways' contract renewal proposal

Dear Commissioner Gibbs:

We are writing in support of Urban Pathways' proposal to renew its contract for operation of the Open Door drop-in center.

CB4 has had a long-standing relationship with Urban Pathways and deeply appreciates the need for and value of the various services it has provided for homeless individuals in our District for many years. In general our Board feels very positively about the nature and quality of the services provided.

As is often the case with such services, there have been concerns expressed about disruptive and negative behavior by clients of Urban Pathways outside the facility and on neighboring streets. Given the location of this facility, in the midst of a very complex and increasingly changing transportation, service, and commercial area, it becomes especially important to have an active and collaborative approach to such problems. In that light, we have met with and discussed these concerns with Urban Pathways representatives. They have offered to both examine current patterns and options internally and to work with Board representatives and others to explore and implement possible alleviating measures.

Given the extremely disappointing but patently clear increase in the numbers of homeless individuals on our streets again, services such as those provided by Urban Pathways are more critical than ever. We endorse renewal of this contract.

Thanks for your attention. Please feel free to contact us if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Simone Sindin
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Janice McGuire
Chair
Health & Human Services Committee

cc: Urban Pathways