



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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J. LEE COMPTON
Chair

MICHELLE SOLOMON
Acting District Manager

March 8, 2006

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

Dear Commissioner Mendez-Santiago:

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 submits this letter to the City of New York Department for the Aging (DFTA) to support Hudson Guild's proposed development of a Naturally Occurring Retirement Community Supportive Social Services Program (NORC SSP) at the Elliott Chelsea development.

Board 4 is pleased to support a program that helps enhance functioning of its senior residents and ensures their ability to remain contributing, vital members of our community. For the more than 500 seniors living in the Elliott Chelsea development, a NORC program will help develop a community of healthy older adults who will receive enhanced and coordinated health, social and recreational services enabling them to maintain active, independent lives.

Hudson Guild has a long-standing commitment to the residents of Chelsea.¹ For nearly six decades the Guild has provided services specifically targeted to seniors through their senior center in Fulton Community Center. In 2005, Hudson Guild expanded its mental health services for seniors, developing partnerships with St Luke's/Roosevelt Hospital, the New York Housing Authority and Visiting Nurse Service of New York. A new Senior Wellness Access Program (SWAP) addresses the social and health care needs of seniors living in the Elliot Chelsea Houses through case assistance and supportive health services. Within six months this program has impressively provided services to nearly 100 seniors.

The Hudson Guild NORC program proposal seeks to build upon its previous successes by adding comprehensive case management services, enhanced health management services and developing concrete services such as shopping assistance, regular friendly visitation and telephone consultation services. It will also work to assist a growing Chinese-speaking population through cultural integration development efforts.

¹ Janice McGuire, Executive Director of Hudson Guild, is also a member of the Board and Co-Chair of its Housing, Health and Human Services Committee. Her interest has been disclosed, and she is not entitled to vote on any matter concerning this program that may come before the Board or the Committee, including approval of this letter.

E. Mendez-Santiago

3/8/2006

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Community Board No. 4 supports the proposed program because it realistically addresses many of the unmet needs of a valued segment of our community, the seniors residing in Chelsea's Elliot Houses and seeks to ensure their independent, healthy functioning in the 21st century.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lee Compton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "J. Lee" and the last name "Compton" clearly distinguishable.

J. Lee Compton
Chair

Kenneth Brambill
Co-Chair Housing Health & Human Services Committee

Cc: Margaret McSheffrey
Hudson Guild
Local elected officials