



CICELY HARRIS  
Chairperson

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CITY OF NEW YORK  
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10  
215 West 125th Street, 4th Floor  
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May 5, 2021

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

RE: Harlem Center For Nursing and Rehabilitation, An Allure Facility

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Manhattan Community Board 10 has long been a champion in advocating for protections for the Village of Harlem's most vulnerable residents, with a special interest for resources to support seniors and those in need of long-term care.

For over a year, nursing homes residents have experienced the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic. From the under-reported incidents of COVID-19, resident infections and traumatic number of deaths, the pandemic continues to be problematic for our Harlem community. We are raising the alarm to amplify the dire need to address this deficiency of care for nursing home residents who are grandparents, parents and friends. They represent people who have given much of their lives to their families and communities and deserve the best quality of care for the duration of their stay.

The New York State Attorney General's Nursing Home COVID-19 Report (2021) noted that a larger number of nursing home residents died from COVID-19 than what the DOH data reflected; this coupled with our own Harlem residents reports to CB10's Health & Human Services Committee, included body bags being removed from our own nursing home - ***The Harlem Center For Nursing and Rehabilitation, An Allure Facility***, over the past year, deeply concerns us. We are calling for the following strategies to be implemented:

- Increased transparency in long-term care facilities
- Continued investigation into the process of state oversight of nursing homes
- Establishment of community advisor committee for long-term care facilities in our district

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- Equitable distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) in Harlem's long-term care facilities
- Investigation into long standing inadequate staffing of long-term care facilities that may have contributed to negative health outcomes for nursing home residents.

The lack of quality of care at nursing homes especially during the COVID-19 Pandemic is unsettling. Manhattan Community Board 10 believes in health equity for all its constituents. Harlem residents who are in the care of nursing homes deserve equal and equitable health care. They should be afforded a safe facility, adequate personnel and supplies to care for their medical needs. Additionally, we have a growing senior population, out pacing the number of long-term care facilities in Harlem, this inadequacy places a strain on families that must place family members in nursing homes further away from their Harlem community.

Manhattan Community Board 10 is requesting that the most vulnerable of our population be treated with the highest quality of care. The devastating impact this pandemic has amplified the inequality and lack of equity in treatment for residents at nursing homes and long-term care facilities. We petition that our strategies be implemented to ensure that care reflects decency, safety and healthcare professionalism.

Sincerely,

Hon. Hazel Duker  
Chair  
Health & Human Services Committee  
Manhattan Community Board 10

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