



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

530 West 166th St. 6th Floor, New York, NY 10032

Phone: (212) 568-8500, Fax: (212) 740-8197

Website: www.nyc.gov/mcb12

George Fernández Jr. - Chairman
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

February 26, 2015

Hon. Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street 19Fl. South
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker
New York City Council
City of New York
City Hall, Room 5
New York, NY 10007

Dear Borough President Brewer & Council Member Mark-Viverito :

Please be advised that at the General Meeting Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015 Community Board 12 Manhattan passed a resolution by a vote of (29) In Favor, (1) Opposed, (0) Abstain, that CB12M encourages the use of "best practices" in Community Board operations citywide and by each Borough President and Councilmember in the (re-)appointment process.

- WHEREAS** the Executive Committee of Community Board 12, Manhattan met on February 10th, 2015 and discussed New York City Council Intro 585 which would impose term limits of 12 years (six two-year terms) on Community Board members appointed on or after April 2016; and,
- WHEREAS** tenure of service increases institutional knowledge which in turns increases a Board's effectiveness; and,
- WHEREAS** membership turnover fosters new perspectives, fresh ideas and growth while also decreasing complacency; and,
- WHEREAS** a 50-person Board is large enough to allow both for natural turnover and longevity within its membership, providing the best of "new" and "old" and offering a range of experience and perspectives; and,
- WHEREAS** only 20% (10 members) of Community Board 12, Manhattan has a tenure of ten years or more, less than 10% (4 members) has a tenure of 15 years or more, and only seven members (14%) have a tenure which exceeds the 12-year limit Intro 585 seeks to impose; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED** that Community Board 12, Manhattan (CB12M) **does not support** term limits as proposed by New York City Council Intro 585; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that CB12M encourages the New York City Council to pass legislation encouraging all boroughs to use a Community Board (re-)appointment model that takes attendance, meaningful contribution to community issues and/or board management and operations rather than mere tenure; and be it further

RESOLVED that CB12M encourages the use of "best practices" in Community Board operations citywide and by each Borough President and Councilmember in the (re-)appointment process.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. We look forward to a favorable response to our request.

Sincerely,

for 
George Fernandez, Jr.
Chair

cc: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Gail Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Charles B. Rangel, Congressman

Hon. Adriano Espaillat, NY State Senator
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Assembly Member
Hon. Guillermo Linares, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member