The City of New York

Community Board 12 - Manhattan
Washington Heights & Inwood

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George Fernández Jr. - Chairman
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

March 30, 2015

Honorable Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
Department of Transportation
55 Water Street 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

At our General Meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, the Community Board 12 Manhattan passed the following resolution with a vote of (28)Favor (0)Opposed (0)Abstain the supporting designation of a Neighborhood Slow Zone in the area between W179th Street and W192nd Street between Broadway and Cabrini Boulevard and supporting the installation of the proposed crosswalk at Bennett Ave. and W190th St. exit from the A train.

Whereas: DOT has introduced a city-wide Neighborhood Slow Zone program in order to apply various traffic slowing techniques to targeted areas; and

Whereas: CB12M has an ongoing commitment to the safety of neighborhood residents as demonstrated by the resolution supporting the installation of Manhattan's first slow zone which occurred in June 2012 during the project's first round and we are now in the project's second round of proposed areas; and

Whereas: The Neighborhood Slow Zone program targets low technology slowing/safety improvements in limited and definable areas that have streets not appropriate for fast and/or through traffic; and

Whereas: A neighborhood slow zone is announced with signage and gateways, has self enforcing via speed bumps, has narrowed roadways at key points, has daylighting at entry points to the sector in order to create better sightlines for pedestrians; and has 20 mph markings to remind drivers to slow down; and

Whereas: Findings show that slow zones provide 10-15% reductions in speeds, 14% overall reduction in crashes and injuries, 31% reduction in vehicle injuries; and

Whereas: The proposed area has seen one pedestrian severely injured and four vehicle occupants severely injured over the last four years, and one fatality within the last eight years, and

Whereas: There has been substantial outreach through multiple meetings and individual contacts throughout the proposal eligibility and approval process for the proposed Neighborhood Slow Zone; and

Whereas: Selection criteria in this proposed zone, consistent with DOT's criteria for Neighborhood Slow Zone designation, include: strong boundaries (busy, commercial streets, parks, dead end streets); highly residential character; three schools; three Daycare and Pre K centers; one senior center; three nearby subway stops; an average of 11 traffic-related injuries per year; numerous letters of support from residents, organizations, and elected officials; and

Whereas: The process of review and approval by NYCDOT has included numerous determinations as well as reviews by other NYC agencies; and

Whereas: NYCDOT has reviewed, improved, and approved a proposed Neighborhood Slow Zone consisting of the areas between 179th Street and 192nd Street between Broadway and Cabrini Boulevard – an area that comes to .22 square miles; and

Whereas: The zone plan includes: 20 proposed speed bumps (including four existing ones), 24 proposed entrance gateways, eleven 20 mph markings, and may include refinements and additions to these components; and

Whereas: No speed bumps will be placed on bus routes inclusive of Broadway and Ft. Washington Ave.; and

Whereas: Due to the innovation, review and improvements made to previous slow zones, no street parking would be lost in the proposed area; and

Whereas: As part of this project, DOT has added a bonus to the community in that of a new high visibility crosswalk located on Bennett Avenue between Broadway and West 192nd St. outside the A train stop at W. 190th St. that would include a new stop sign, ADA accessible pedestrian ramps with tactile warning strips, and the removal of 3 parking spots on the east side of the street and one parking spot on the west side of the street in order to facilitate proper installation of the crosswalk; now therefore be it

Resolved: CB12M supports the designation of a Neighborhood Slow Zone in the area between W179th Street and W192nd Street between Broadway and Cabrini Boulevard; highly commends DOT for its thorough review of the proposal and analysis of neighborhood needs; asks DOT to implement this proposal in the current FY; and be it further

Resolved: CB12M supports the installation of the proposed crosswalk at Bennett Ave. and W190th St. exit from the A train and asks that DOT do its due diligence to complete the project with the minimum amount of loss to street parking

Sincerely,

E. Smith

for Geoerge Fernandez, Jr.
Chairman - CB12 M

c: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Charles B. Rangel, Congressman
Josh Orzeck - DOT Liaison
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, State Senator
Hon. Bill Perkins, State Senator
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Assembly Member
Hon. Guillermo Linares, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member