



## Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

530 West 166<sup>th</sup> St. 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10032

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

Website: [www.nyc.gov/mcb12](http://www.nyc.gov/mcb12)

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Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq., Chairperson  
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

February 1, 2016

Hon. Mitchell J. Silver  
Commissioner  
NYC Parks & Recreation  
The Arsenal  
830 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10065

Dear Commissioner Silver:

At the General Meeting on Tuesday, Jan 26, 2016 Community Board 12-Manhattan passed the following resolution with a vote of (34)In Favor, (1)Opposed, (0)Abstain, requesting that the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) consider adding or expanding recreational educational and other programming such as an ice rink, another pool and/or a swimming barge, a zip line, a carousel, an indoor or outdoor rec center in Inwood, mini-golf, more boating and waterfront recreation opportunities including canoe/kayak/sailing rentals/classes, educational programs on nature and natural resources, organized activities for older adults, afterschool programming, healthy food carts.

Whereas: Community District 12, Manhattan (CD12M) is a densely populated District, with high rates of asthma, obesity and diabetes, a higher percentage of children (20% of the District)<sup>1</sup> than any other Manhattan District, and a high percentage of residents (12%)<sup>1</sup> over the age of 65; and

Whereas: CD12M has a high rate of poverty, ranking 10th among all NYC Community Districts for poverty<sup>2</sup>, and 43rd for median household income<sup>2</sup> with a median household income of \$38,1832 (down from \$44,107 in 20002), with 21% of our residents living below the Federal poverty threshold<sup>1</sup> and almost half of our residents receiving some kind of income support<sup>1</sup>, and therefore a greater need for high-quality, free and low-cost programming and facilities; and

Whereas there is a wealth of parks land, playgrounds, and recreation centers in CD12M including Fort Tryon, Fort Washington, Highbridge, and Inwood Hill Parks; the Highbridge and J. Hood Wright Park Rec Centers; several miles of waterfront/shoreline; numerous playgrounds and smaller parks; two historic houses and lighthouse, as well as much valuable and interesting free and low-cost programming through the Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR), the Urban Park Rangers, and in partnership with non-profit organizations in our District; and

Whereas: Community Board 12, Manhattan (CB12M) has had many meetings and exchanged much correspondence w/ DPR's Revenue Division, DPR Borough Operations, and the Mayor's Office of Contract Services (MOCS), and have participated in hearings of the New York City Council's Franchise &

Concession Review Committee (FCRC), and regularly engage in capital and expense budget evaluation in the annual Statement of District Needs and budgeting for capital and programming, and would like to strengthen and build on this dialogue; and

Whereas: the existing DPR Maintenance & Operations personnel do an outstanding job given the enormity of the task and their limited resources; and

Whereas CD12M's many programs, facilities and concessions for recreation, education, entertainment, health & well-being, arts & culture, and environment & nature also leave room for additional such programs, facilities and concessions; and

Whereas: CD12M's large and important existing concessions require ongoing evaluation by DPR's Revenue Division, MOCS, and the FCRC, particularly in the course of assessing them for renewal, and evaluating opportunities for additional services; and

Whereas: there have been several public discussions held at the CB12M Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee (PCA) regarding year-round opportunities including (but not limited to) an ice rink, another pool and/or swimming barge, a zip line, a carousel, an indoor or outdoor rec center in Inwood, mini-golf, more boating and waterfront recreation opportunities including canoe/kayak/sailing rentals/classes, educational programs on nature and natural resources, organized activities for older adults, outdoor nature programming, healthy food carts, and more, some of which could be implemented as expense budget programs or capital budget items or concessions; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: that Community Board 12, Manhattan requests that the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) consider adding or expanding recreational educational and other programming such as an ice rink, another pool and/or a swimming barge, a zip line, a carousel, an indoor or outdoor rec center in Inwood, mini-golf, more boating and waterfront recreation opportunities including canoe/kayak/sailing rentals/classes, educational programs on nature and natural resources, organized activities for older adults, afterschool programming, healthy food carts, and more, and be it further

Resolved: that Community Board 12, Manhattan requests that DPR evaluate the feasibility of such capital projects including those listed above, and other enhancements of and improvements to our District's parks; and be it further

Resolved: that Community Board 12, Manhattan requests that DPR evaluate the feasibility of concessions for certain activities and facilities including those listed above and more, and be it further

Resolved: that the DPR Revenue Division consider and incorporate community need and input when evaluating such possible concessions; and be it further

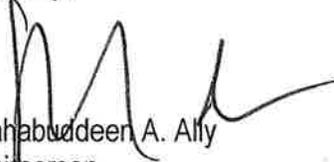
Hon. Mitchell J. Silver  
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Resolved: that the Mayor's Office of Contracting Services consider and incorporate community need and input when contracting any concessions or other contracted services, and in evaluating such contracts for renewal; and be it further

Resolved: that the Franchise & Concession Review Committee consider and incorporate community need and input when evaluating new or renewal franchises and concessions; and be it further

Resolved Community Board 12, Manhattan calls on our local, Borough, Citywide, State and Federal officials to help fund such programs and projects listed above.

Sincerely,



Shahabuddeen A. Ally  
Chairperson

Cc: 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  
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, State Senator  
Hon. Bill Perkins, State Senator  
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Assembly Member  
Hon. Guillermo Linares, Assembly Member  
Hon. Ydani Rodriguez, Council Member  
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member



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Hon. Mitchell J. Silver  
Commissioner  
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830 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10065

Dear Commissioner Silver:

At the General Meeting on Tuesday, Jan 26, 2016 Community Board 12-Manhattan passed the following resolution with a vote of (33)In Favor, (0)Opposed, (1)Abstain, supporting the placement of a syringe disposal kiosk at the top of the Haven Avenue stairs on Haven Ave. at W. 178<sup>th</sup> St. and supporting the placement of a syringe disposal kiosk at the top of the Haven Avenue stairs on Haven Ave. at W. 178<sup>th</sup> St.

- Whereas: the Washington Heights CORNER (Community Out Reach Needle Exchange and Harm Reduction) Project's mission is to improve the health and quality of life of people who use drugs by helping to overcome stigma and systemic barriers to care; expanding access to clean syringes through street-based advocacy; and providing resources, advocacy and a broad range of educational, health and referral services that reduce risks associated with drug use, including HIV, hepatitis and overdose; and
- Whereas: the WH CORNER Project works with the Parks Department, the NYPD, the Department of Sanitation, and various Friends of Parks groups to provide removal of needles and sharps from parks and other public places where drug users are known to congregate and use drugs, and has recovered and safely disposed of more than 50,000 syringes from NYC parks since 2009; and
- Whereas: the WH CORNER Project conducts a needs assessment on an ongoing basis, utilizing peer and outreach worker knowledge as well as data, including a GPS tracking of highest density locations completed in the Summer of 2014; and
- Whereas: New York State Department of Health has an Alternative Sharps Collection Program to provide for the placement of public disposal sites; and
- Whereas these sharps collection kiosks have proven to be successful in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Buffalo and other places throughout the country and state, dramatically reducing the number of sharps and used needles otherwise left in public places where they pose a clear public health hazard; and
- Whereas: a representative from the Washington Heights CORNER Project made a thorough presentation to the Community Board 12, Manhattan Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee on January 5<sup>th</sup> regarding its proposal to place a disposal kiosk at the top of the Haven Avenue stairs on Haven Ave. at W. 178<sup>th</sup> St.,

which kiosk the WH CORNER Project would be responsible for emptying and maintaining undamaged and graffiti-free, and with clear signage in both English and Spanish; and

Whereas: these stairs are well protected from public view and are also a gateway for many of the sites where the highest volume of improperly disposed syringes has been encountered for several years; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: that Community Board 12, Manhattan (CB12M) supports the placement of a syringe disposal kiosk at the top of the Haven Avenue stairs on Haven Ave. at W. 178<sup>th</sup> St.; and be it further

Resolved: that (CB12M) supports the placement of additional such kiosks if the WH CORNER Project has funds to manage them and there are sites whose current drug activity warrants the placement of such kiosks.

Sincerely,



Shahabuddeen A. Ally  
Chairperson

cc: 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  
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