



## Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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

March 5, 2018

Steve Corwin, M.D.  
President  
New York-Presbyterian Hospital  
177 Fort Washington Ave.  
New York, NY 10032

Dear Dr. Corwin:

At our General Meeting on February 27, 2018, Community Board 12-Manhattan passed the following resolution opposing the planned closing of the psychiatric beds at the Allen Hospital by a vote of 34 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

**WHEREAS:** Community Board 12-Manhattan has ranked the expansion of mental health services in our community as our #1 priority in the City's expense budget for the last two years; and

**WHEREAS:** New York-Presbyterian Hospital (NYPH), in its 2016 Community Service Plan/Community Health Needs Assessment, noted that "11% of safety net patients receiving behavioral health services at NYPH had three or more psychiatric [Emergency Department] visits or inpatient admissions in the past year, a rate near double the regional average" (emphasis added); and

**WHEREAS:** NYPH nevertheless has submitted a Certificate of Need application to the N.Y. State Department of Health to decertify 30 psychiatric in-patient beds at the Allen Hospital, which would be replaced by maternity and medical/surgical beds; and

**WHEREAS:** The 30 psychiatric beds have been consistently filled since the hospital opened in 1988 with patients suffering from mood/bipolar disorders, major depression, schizophrenia or mentally ill/chemical addiction issues. Six hundred patients a year use these beds, almost half of them Washington Heights-Inwood residents; and

**WHEREAS:** These 30 beds would be eliminated permanently from the NYPH system even though the need for them has not diminished; and

**WHEREAS:** Patients who would otherwise utilize these beds would instead be placed at NYPH's Westchester Division and Gracie Square Hospital, which are not conveniently located for residents of our community; and

**WHEREAS:** The Allen Hospital, when it opened in 1988 as the Allen Pavilion, was conceived to be our "community hospital" with 300 beds but now only has 196 beds; and

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**WHEREAS:** There has been no explanation nor notice to the community about the loss of the 104 beds, and this suggests that there is room in the building to accommodate the psychiatric beds as well as the maternity and medical/surgical beds that the hospital wishes to add; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** Community Board 12-Manhattan calls upon New York-Presbyterian Hospital to rescind its plan to eliminate the 30 psychiatric beds at the Allen Hospital and instead to add 30 psychiatric beds, at least half of which should be reserved for adolescents since there are apparently no such beds for adolescents in the hospital currently; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** Community Board 12-Manhattan calls upon New York-Presbyterian Hospital to renew its contracts with the doctors and discontinue its efforts to transfer the nurses working in this unit; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** Community Board 12-Manhattan calls upon the N.Y. State Department of Health and the Office of Mental Health to reject the Certificate of Need application submitted by NYPH if this plan is not withdrawn by the hospital.

Thank you for your consideration of the Community Board's position on this matter. We look forward to receiving a favorable response.

Sincerely,



Shanabadeen A. Ally, Esq.  
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor  
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller  
Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate  
Hon. Gale Brewer, Borough President  
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congress member  
Hon. Marisol Alcantara, State Senator  
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member  
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member  
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member  
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member  
Hon. Howard Zucker, M.D., J.D., Commissioner, N.Y.S. Dept. of Health  
Hon. Ann Marie Sullivan, M.D., Commissioner N.Y.S. Office of Mental Health