



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

## Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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December 28, 2017

Honorable Bill De Blasio  
Mayor of New York City  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

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

**Re: Resolution in Support of the Concept of Creating a Community Land Trust in Community Board 12 District using Safety City and other underutilized city/state owned properties.**

Dear Mayor Bill De Blasio:

At the General Meeting, Tuesday, December 19, 2017 Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed a resolution with a vote of 38 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention supports the concept that vacant city-controlled properties (including Safety City and other underutilized city/state owned properties in the district) be transferred from the relevant city agency now controlling each property to HPD in anticipation of potential transfer to this community through an open and transparent Community Land Trust.

**Whereas**, Preliminary review determined that Safety City Lot on West 158th Street (Block: 2134 Lot: 218) owned by the City of New York is currently underutilized, and

**Whereas**, There may be additional sites which are owned by the City of New York/New York State; and

**Whereas**, A Community Land Trust allows for preservation and creation of housing and other productive uses which would be affordable in perpetuity and also allows the opportunity for the community to determine and control the mechanisms for governance through a democratic process so deemed suitable for the community (i.e., work with non-profit developers to deepen affordability); and

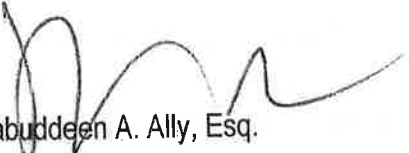
**Whereas**, A Northern Manhattan Community Land Trust is already in formation by a working group of Community Board 12, Manhattan residents who responded to a January 2017 "HPD Request for Expressions of Interest" and were selected from a large group of respondents by the City to participate in a training and technical assistance program to form and develop community land trust across the city; and

**Whereas**, There are over 200 Community Land Trust nationwide in operation, including the newly created East Harlem/El Barrio community land trust which endeavors to preserve more than 100 units of housing for hundreds of East Harlem residents and their families; and

**Whereas**, The focus on exclusively City-Owned vacant property allows for the City of New York to advance projects for development in an expeditious manner and also to enforce affordability thresholds that will meet the need for the great demand of such in our city, **now therefore be it**

**Resolved**, Community Board 12, Manhattan supports the concept that aforementioned vacant city-controlled properties (including Safety City and other underutilized city/state owned properties in the district) be transferred from the relevant city agency now controlling each property to HPD in anticipation of potential transfer to this community through an open and transparent Community Land Trust.

Sincerely



Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq.  
Chairperson

cc    Hon. Maria Torres-Springer, HPD Commissioner    Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member  
      Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate            Hon. Alfred Taylor, Assembly Member  
      Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller            Hon. Marisa Lago, Chair DCP  
      Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manh. Borough President    Hon. James Pratchett, President NYCEDC  
      Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman            Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker - City Council  
      Hon. Marisol Alcantara, NY State Senator        Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member  
      Hon. Brian Benjamin, NY State Senator          Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member  
      Hon. Polly Trottenberg, DOT Commissioner      Hon. Rafael Salamanca, Jr, Council Member  
      Hon. Luis Sanchez, Manh. DOT Commissioner    Hon. Robert Cornegy, Jr., Council Member  
      Hon. Molly Park, Asst. Commissioner, HPD      Hon. Jumaane Williams., Council Member  
      Hon. Lisa Talma Asst. Commissioner, HPD      Hon. Charles Samboy, NYCEDC