



**Community Board 12 - Manhattan
Washington Heights & Inwood**
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Pamela Palanque-North - Chair
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

January 30, 2013

Hon. Andrew Cuomo
Governor
Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

At its General Meeting on January 22, 2013, Community Board 12-Manhattan passed the following resolution by a vote of (39)In favor, (0)Opposed, (0)Abstain and (1)Not voting in support of stricter gun control measures on the federal and state levels:

WHEREAS: Gun violence in the United States is an important public health matter since the use of firearms has resulted in higher rates of injuries, suicides and homicides in comparison to most other developed countries, according to a newly issued study commissioned by the National Institutes of Health; and

WHEREAS: American men ranked last in life expectancy among the 17 countries in the study and American women ranked next to last, and the greater use of firearms in acts of violence in this country was found to be one of the key factors for the United States' poor ranking; and

WHEREAS: Thirty-four Americans are killed every day by firearms, and the total killed in just six months is equal to all American combat deaths over the entire length of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, as the Daily News has pointed out; and

WHEREAS: There has been a series of mass shootings across the country in recent years, culminating in the horrible tragedy in Newtown, Conn., in which 20 young children and six adults were killed by a 20-year-old man using a military-style rifle in the Sandy Hook Elementary School; and

WHEREAS: Yet another incident occurred just last Saturday in New Mexico, where a 15-year-old boy killed his family using assault rifles, including the same type used in Newtown; and

WHEREAS: Numerous shootings also have occurred in Washington Heights-Inwood over the years; and

WHEREAS: Governor Andrew Cuomo recently proposed a comprehensive package of legislation dealing with this problem, including a ban on assault weapons and ammunition magazines with more than seven bullets, increased penalties for illegal gun use, allowing mental health professionals to report gun owners who are seen as a threat and allowing the police to confiscate guns from the mentally ill, and these bills were quickly approved by the State Legislature and signed into law by the Governor; and

WHEREAS: President Barack Obama also announced plans to introduce legislation this week that includes a ban on new assault weapons, limits on high-capacity ammunition magazines, expanded background checks for gun purchases and tougher gun trafficking laws, which is important to curtail crime in New York City; now, therefore, be it

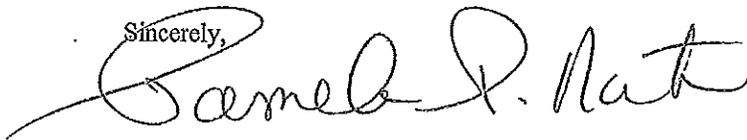
RESOLVED: Community Board 12-Manhattan strongly commends the actions taken by Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature but recommends that successive measures include a buy-back or similar program for assault-type and other weapons already in circulation so that owners would be encouraged to turn them in and additional funding for mental health services; and be it further

RESOLVED: Community Board 12-Manhattan urges Congress and the N.Y. State delegation in particular to act expeditiously to adopt the gun-control legislation proposed by President Obama, including making the ban on assault weapons permanent so that it would not expire as the previous ban did in 2004 and providing funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal agencies to conduct research into the causes and prevention of gun violence; and be it further

RESOLVED: Community Board 12-Manhattan urges the other New York City community boards to join in endorsing this vitally important legislation.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of this resolution. We look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,



Pamela Palanque-North
Chair

c: Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly
Public Advocate Bill de Blasio
Comptroller John Liu
Borough President Scott Stringer
State Senator Adriano Espaillat

State Senator Bill Perkins
Assembly Member Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Assembly Member Gabriela Rosa Council
Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez
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