



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

711 West 168th Street, New York, NY 10032
Phone: (212) 568-8500, Fax: (212) 740-8197
Website: www.nyc.gov/mcb12

George Fernández Jr. - Chair
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

March 20, 2013

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

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Please be advised that at the General Meeting Tuesday, March 19, 2013, Community Board 12 Manhattan, the board passed a resolution with a vote of (28)In favor, (0)Opposed, (0)Abstain endorsing the NYC Voices against Gun Violence Coalition.

Whereas, Community Board 12 Manhattan overwhelmingly voted in support of Andrew Cuomo's Gun Control Law reform, New York Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act of 2013 (NY SAFE ACT), January 2013, and

Whereas, New York City Voices Against Gun Violence is a coalition bringing a wide range of organizations together, and

Where as, the coalition includes violence prevention groups, such as, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, Harlem Mothers S.A.V.E., New Yorkers Against Gun Violence, Doctors for American State Chapter, 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, Million Moms March and the Working Families Party, and

Whereas, by Community Board 12 Manhattan endorsing the New York City Voices Against Gun Violence Coalition will demonstrate CB12M continued support for New York Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act of 2013 (NY SAFE ACT), and

Whereas, to join the coalition CB12M would need to register online as a supporter of the March 21st Mobilization taking place in front of the Harlem State Office, participate in the event, email everyone on our email listing about the event and place the banner or button on CB12M homepage, and

Therefore be it resolved, Community Board 12 Manhattan Endorses the NYC Voices against Gun Violence Coalition and shall join the coalition on March 21, 2013 a and be part of the massive mobilization in NYC.

We thank you for your continued support and we look forward to a favorably response to our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Fernandez Jr.".

George Fernandez, Jr.
Chair

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
Hon. Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Public Advocate
Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman
Hon. Bill Perkins, State Senator
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, State Senator
Hon. Herman D. Farrell Jr., Assembly Member
Hon. Gabriella Rosa, Assembly Member
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George Fernández Jr. - Chair
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

March 20, 2013

Honorable Christine Quinn
Speaker
NYC Council
250 Broadway 18th Fl.
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Margaret Forgiore
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Dept. of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane 37th Fl.
New York, NY 10038

Dear Speaker Quinn & Borough Commissioner Forgiore:

Please be advised that at the General Meeting Tuesday, March 19, 2013, Community Board 12 Manhattan, the board passed a resolution with a vote of (28)In favor, (0)Opposed, (0)Abstain requesting the Co-Naming of the northwest corner of Bennett Avenue and West 181st Street **Alexey Murzhenko Plaza**.

Whereas: Alexey Murzhenko (11/23/42 – 12/31/99) was a human rights defender, a prisoner of conscience for a total of 22 years in the former Soviet Union, a recognized leader of the movement for the freedom of migration, and later a leader of the Russian speaking community of New York ; and

Whereas: Alexey was born in the Ukraine and was the son of a soldier who died in the war against Nazism. As he matured he became involved in the struggle for human rights and democratic change in the former Soviet Union; and

Whereas: At the age of 20 he was sentenced to six years in jail for founding and leading a student group that advocated for civil liberties; and

Whereas: In 1970 he was incarcerated again as part of a group that tried to hijack a plane in order to draw world attention to the struggle of Soviet Jews and others for the freedom of emigration from the Soviet Union. He was one of two Christians in a 16 member group led by Jewish *refuseniks*; and

Whereas: In 1974 he established, together with Kronid Lyubarsky, the Day of Political Prisoners which was marked on October 30th throughout the Soviet Gulag by hunger strikes against violations of the human rights of political prisoners. In 1991 the Russian parliament officially recognized it as a Day of Remembrance of Victims of Political Repression; and
Whereas: On September 30, 1982, the US House of Representatives unanimously passed a resolution calling for the release of Alexsey Murzhenko and Yuri Fiodorov from prison; and

Whereas: Finally in 1988 Alexey, his wife and two daughters were able to leave the former Soviet Union and settle in New York City. Their first residence was located 56 Bennett Avenue. Their home quickly became a center for the Russians speaking community and a gathering place for veterans of the human rights struggle in former Soviet Union; and

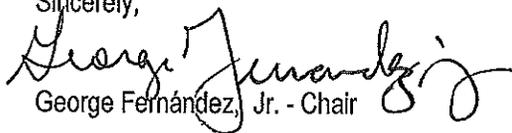
Whereas: Alexey died at 57 years old in 1999 due to illness he developed in the camps. He continues to live in the memory of the community, inspiring others through his example. Each year on the anniversary of both his death and birthday there are celebrations in the community; and

Whereas: Over 300 community members have signed a petition to recognize the valiant struggles of Alexey Murzhenko by honoring him through the co-naming of a street near 56 Bennett Avenue. Among the prominent signees of the petition are the Executive Director of Rabbis for Human Rights and other rabbis and religious leaders. Also signing were members of Community Board 12 and representatives of businesses in the community; now therefore be it

Resolved: That CB12M requests the Co-Naming of the northwest corner of Bennett Avenue and West 181st Street Alexey Murzhenko Plaza.

We thank you for your continued support and we look forward to a favorably response to our request.

Sincerely,


George Fernández, Jr. - Chair

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
Hon. Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Public Advocate
Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman
Hon. Bill Perkins, State Senator
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, State Senator
Hon. Herman D. Farrell Jr., Assembly Member
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George Fernández Jr. - Chair
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

March 20, 2013

Hon. Scott M. Stringer
Manhattan Borough President
1 Centre Street 19th Fl. South
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Stringer:

Please be advised that at the General Meeting Tuesday, March 19, 2013, Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed a resolution with a majority vote of (28)In favor, (0)Opposed, (0)Abstain requesting the By-laws of Community Board 12 Manhattan to be amended to reflect CB12M's current committee structures.

Whereas: Community Board 12-Manhattan (CB12) has determined the need to have greater involvement in issues involving the economic development of Washington Heights and Inwood in order to be responsive to an important community need; and

Whereas: The scope of CB12's previous Economic Development Committee (EDC) historically had been limited for the most part to the review of applications for State Liquor Authority and Taxi and Limousine Commission licenses as well as sidewalk café permits, leaving hardly any time to deal with economic development issues; and

Whereas: The previous Executive Committee renamed the EDC as the Licensing Committee to reflect its true nature and then created the Business Development Committee as a special committee; and

Whereas: The current Executive Committee now recommends pursuant to Section 11.04(2) of the By-Laws that the Business Development Committee be upgraded as a standing committee and be authorized to address matters concerning local businesses and economic development in our community, including but not limited to holding public forums and training sessions, disseminating information on economic development initiatives, and promoting other activities to further the economic development of the district, on its own or in partnership with other government agencies and community-based organizations, as shall be consistent with the policies supported by CB12; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: Community Board 12-Manhattan approves the creation of a new standing committee, the Business Development Committee; and be it further

Resolved: Section 11.04(1) of the By-laws is amended so that the existing language is replaced by the following:

(1) Standing Committees shall have jurisdiction and responsibility for reviewing issues and making recommendations to the board for action regarding specific interests and obligations of the board, including monitoring the overall delivery of City services and establishing the board's priorities for the City budget as it affects Community District 12-Manhattan. The board's committee structure shall include the following Standing Committees, with the names of City and other agencies they relate to shown after each committee's name:

Concerns of the Aging Committee – Department for the Aging.

Business Development Committee – Department of Small Business Services, Economic Development Corp., Dept. of Consumer Affairs.

Health and Environment Committee – Dept. of Environmental Protection, Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene, Emergency Medical Services (Fire Dept.), Health & Hospitals Corp., Dept. of Sanitation.

Housing and Human Services Committee – Dept. of Buildings, Dept. of Housing Preservation & Development, NYC Housing Authority, Rent Guidelines Board, Dept. of Homeless Services, Human Resources Administration, Commission on Human Rights.

Land Use Committee – Dept. of City Planning, Board of Standards and Appeals, Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Licensing Committee – State Liquor Authority, Dept. of Consumer Affairs (sidewalk café permits), Dept. of Small Business Services, Taxi & Limousine Commission.

Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee – Dept. of Parks & Recreation, Dept. of Cultural Affairs.

Public Safety Committee – NYPD, Civilian Complaint Review Board, Fire Department, District Attorney's Office, Dept. of Juvenile Justice, Dept. of Probation.

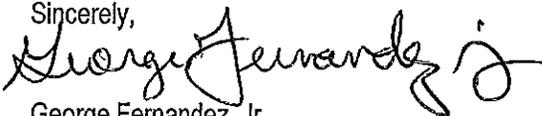
Traffic and Transportation Committee – Dept. of Transportation, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey.

Youth and Education – Dept. of Education, Dept. of Youth and Community Development; Administration for Children's Services, School Construction Authority; and be it further

Resolved: This By-laws amendment shall take effect immediately upon approval by a majority vote of Community Board 12-Manhattan in the presence of a quorum at a duly called meeting of the board.

We thank you for your continued support and we look forward to a favorably response to our request.

Sincerely,



George Fernandez, Jr.
Chair

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Public Advocate
Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman
Hon. Bill Perkins, State Senator
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, State Senator

Hon. Herman D. Farrell Jr., Assembly Member
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Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

March 20, 2013

Hon. Rahul N. Merchant
Commissioner
Department of Information
Technology & Telecommunications
255 Greenwich 9th Fl.
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioner Merchant:

Please be advised that at the General Meeting Tuesday, March 19, 2013, Community Board 12 Manhattan, the board passed a resolution with a vote of (28) In favor, (0) Opposed, (0) Abstain requesting the creation of a Task Force on Information Technology and Telecommunications.

Whereas, Community Board 12's current NYC DoITT network systems, i.e., its local area network (LAN) and its wide area network (WAN) were installed in 2008 and despite being linked with the city's applications (office automation, and telecommunications systems) these systems, although an upgrade from the isolated and incompatible platforms that had previously existed in the board's offices, still represented only an early and incomplete attempt at digital convergence, and

Whereas, the state of digital technology has significantly and rapidly changed since that time with new operating systems and microprocessors, expansions of distributed systems now linked to cloud computing, the advances in audio-video and graphical equipment, digital signage and interactive kiosks, the spread of telecommunications networks, particularly wireless and remote interconnects, indexing, and better drill down screens for visual mapping and archiving, 3D displays and printing, and lastly, all the infrastructure and the inter-operational layers needed for these developments, and

Whereas, there are also a significant differences in the types of communication and multimedia platforms, databases, maps, contact methods or media (paper documents, standard postal mail, optical discs, thumb drives, cards, emails, voicemail, faxes, smartphones, equipment modified for accessibility, and the introduction of many types of mobile devices) and the various ways members of our community and the board itself acquires, parses, aggregates, displays, distributes and shares information, either with their popular personal and home devices, tools and apps or through complex business systems in the office and at meetings, and

Whereas, the current community board office systems are managed through the NYC DoITT servers they must imposed heavy and strict security measures to protect unauthorized access and intrusions into many of our city's agencies systems a new system of our own balanced needs to be developed outside of this arena to allow our community residents the opportunity to have a parallel and locally focused access to applications that produce drill downs to community maps that summarize data one might need, and

Whereas, the longer our community board waits without clear goals, a plan, an approved pathway, and a commitment to obtain these state of art digital advances that constantly change; the time and cost required to integrate our older systems and

applications to these advances we may well experience yet another digital divide that could place us further behind and lessen our effectiveness relative to others to advocate for community needs and resources, and therefore be it

Resolved, that the Executive Committee recommends that Community Board 12 establish a **Task Force on Information Technology and Telecommunications** to investigate where we have been, where we now stand and where we could and should go, with the path to get there with these new challenges and new state of art and compatible systems, hardware, and applications in the digital age to better communicate to members in our community, and be it further

Resolved, that a systematic, standard, and complete audit of all the current office and network systems and applications be conducted to establish a system where the management of the whole life cycle (design, construction, commissioning, operating, maintaining, repairing, modifying, replacing and decommissioning/disposal) of our physical and infrastructure assets can be tracked so that better planning for growth can be achieved as well as be prepared for prospective vendor demos and presentations, and be it further

Resolved, that since many of these initiatives that the taskforce may recommend will need substantial funding beyond the city's budget allocations to this board they should consult with the Borough President's Office, the City's Controller and Legal Affairs, and be it further

Resolved, that all training and maintenance efforts will become a key component to any of its recommendations, and

Finally be it resolved, that given the limited resources currently available in CB12's operating and capital budget that no expenditures for new equipment, software be purchased, except for existing maintenance and service costs until after the Task Force completes its report and submits it to the Chair, Executive Committee, and the full Community Board.

We thank you for your continued support and we look forward to a favorably response to our request.

Sincerely,


George Fernandez, Jr.
Chair

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
Hon. Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Public Advocate
Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman
Hon. Bill Perkins, State Senator
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, State Senator
Hon. Herman D. Farrell Jr., Assembly Member
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Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

March 20, 2013

Hon. Seth W. Pinsky
President
NYC Economic Development Corporation
110 William St.
New York, NY 10038

Dear Mr. Pinsky:

At the General Meeting Tuesday, March 19, 2013 Community Board 12, Manhattan passed a resolution with a majority vote of (28)In favor, (0)Opposed, (0)Abstain to amend the New York City Helicopter Sightseeing Plan and restrict all tourist helicopter flights to the area over the Hudson River and not permit them to cross over residential areas of Washington Heights or West Harlem.

- Whereas: In 2010 the City banned tourist helicopter flights over Brooklyn and the East River due to noise complaints, revising the authorized flight pattern to extend up the center of the Hudson River to West 155th Street and then across Manhattan towards Yankee Stadium; and
- Whereas: The policy change was implemented without any notice to or consultation with the Washington Heights and West Harlem communities and has had a significant adverse impact on the quality of life for many residents; and
- Whereas: According to Council Member Robert Jackson's office, 311 reports that it has received 99 complaints regarding helicopter noise from residents of Community District 12-Manhattan since January 2011; and
- Whereas: The Downtown Manhattan Heliport near Wall Street now has approximately 200 takeoffs and landings each day, 70 percent of which are sightseeing flights directed to the Hudson River; and
- Whereas: The sightseeing helicopters frequently deviate from the authorized route by flying along the Hudson River shoreline not far from residences on Riverside Drive and at altitudes well below 2,000 feet; and
- Whereas: The number and frequency of these flights appear to have increased over the years, and in fact a member of Community Board 12-Manhattan recently counted 20 helicopter flights over lower Washington Heights on a weekday in a time span of only 1½ hours; and
- Whereas: There have been 28 helicopter crashes around Manhattan in the last 30 years and nine since 2005; and

Whereas: There is also a public safety concern in view of the fact that helicopter passengers are not subject to pre-flight screening; and

Whereas: There is no compelling reason why the helicopters have to cross over Manhattan at West 155th Street, a heavily populated area with an elementary school, several churches and a cultural and educational complex; and

Whereas: A review of the New York City Helicopter Sightseeing Plan did not take place in October 2010 as promised nor for that matter since then; and

Whereas: The lack of enforcement of the prescribed flight pattern and altitude has compounded both the legitimate noise and public safety issues connected with these flights; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: Community Board 12-Manhattan calls upon the New York City Economic Development Corporation and the Federal Aviation Administration to amend the New York City Helicopter Sightseeing Plan and restrict all tourist helicopter flights to the area over the Hudson River and not permit them to cross over residential areas of Washington Heights or West Harlem.

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

Sincerely,

George Fernandez, Jr.

Chair



cc: Mayor Michael Bloomberg

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

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Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

March 20, 2013

Hon. Carmine Gallo
Regional Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
1 Aviation Plaza
Jamaica, NY 11434

Dear Mr. Gallo:

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

Sincerely,



George Fernandez, Jr.
Chair

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State Senator Bill Perkins
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Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez