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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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March 27, 2018

Roy Leavitt
Executive Director
Greenwich House
27 Barrow Street
New York, NY 10014

Dear Executive Director Leavitt:

At its Full Board meeting on March 22, 2018 Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB#2, Man.) adopted the following resolutions:

Presentation by Greenwich House regarding the proposed move of their full-day out patient drug counseling program from 122 W. 27th Street to co-locate with their existing morning methadone treatment program at 190 Mercer Street:

Whereas Greenwich House Executive Director Roy Leavitt and three Greenwich House Chemical Dependency Program clinical directors presented details of a plan to co-locate their full-day outpatient drug counseling program (consisting of 135 clients) from 122 W. 27th Street with their existing morning methadone treatment program at 190 Mercer Street (735 clients); and

Whereas Greenwich House is a West Village settlement house founded in 1902 in New York City, whose mission is to help individuals from all walks of life lead more fulfilling lives by offering arts and education programs, senior services, after-school and summer arts camps, pottery and music classes and behavioral health programs; and

Whereas the methadone treatment program on 190 Mercer Street currently operates Monday, Wednesday and Friday between the hours of 6:15am and 1:45pm, on Tuesday from 6:15am to 2:00pm and Saturdays from 8:00am to 11:45am and consists of 735 clients; and

Whereas the proposed co-location of the outpatient program to 190 Mercer Street would bring an additional 135 clients *who do not receive medication of any kind* and on any given day 50 of those 135 clients are expected to attend individual and group counseling sessions which will operate Monday through Thursday from 9:00am to 8:00pm and Fridays from 9:00am to 5:00pm; and

Whereas the Mercer Street location space is approximately 14,000 square feet, half of which is on each of the 4th and 5th floors with a lease expiration in September 30, 2024 with an additional 5 year option to renew; and

Whereas while neighbors expressed general support for the program, all stressed concern over the expansion of a drug treatment facility in a residential neighborhood, pointing in particular to the lack of a lobby at 190 Mercer Street to serve as a reception area for clients, requiring clients to line up on the sidewalk awaiting the building's elevator which holds approximately 8 individuals and opens directly onto the street; and

Whereas six members of the community representing neighboring residential properties each described witnessing incidents of loitering, reported observations of exchanges of money for small packages from their apartment windows and arguments among some people believed to be program participants; and

Whereas Greenwich House specified that its clients are required to adhere to a policy that prohibits loitering within a two-block radius of 190 Mercer Street and explained these violations by clients can result in discharge from the program; and

Whereas Greenwich House stated several of its staff, including program directors, monitor adherence to this policy via daily staff patrols of 15 minutes each several times a day and that the building has a surveillance camera that allows it to monitor its entrance with video replay in case of incidence, but for reasons of neighborhood privacy its camera's viewpoint is limited to the sidewalk in front of 190 Mercer Street; and

Whereas Greenwich House's Executive Director expressed a shared alarm and concern over these alleged activities and promised to assume responsibility for their immediate correction, committing to consider steps such as increased monitoring of clients, coordination with local neighborhood police, improved video surveillance and others; and

Whereas Greenwich House suggested methods for immediate direct communication between neighbors and staff in order to bring any and all concerns to their attention for immediate monitoring and correction; and

Whereas members of the Committee suggested Greenwich House, in the absence of a lobby, increase their staff presence by placing a "Greeter" near the elevator during peak hours to provide oversight and ensure adherence to program policy rules and regulations and to address any quality of life issues as they may occur.

Therefore be it resolved that Manhattan Community Board 2

1. Supports Greenwich House's mission to provide drug treatment to New Yorkers and
2. Supports the co-location of services at 190 Mercer Street if as promised Greenwich House proves responsible and effective at curing quality of life concerns expressed by community members and
3. Asks that Greenwich House return to the Social Service Committee in November or December of this year to provide an update of its interventions demonstrating their ongoing commitment to addressing neighborhood quality of life concerns as they may occur.

VOTE: Unanimous, with 34 Board Members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to these resolutions.

Sincerely,



Terri Cude, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Cristy Dwyer, Chair
Social Services Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

TC/EM

c: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
 Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NY State Senator
 Hon. Deborah Glick, Assembly Member
 Hon. Gale Brewer, Man. Borough President
 Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member