



COMMUNITY BOARD No. 2, MANHATTAN

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June 22, 2012

Hon. Michael Bloomberg
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

At its Full Board meeting June 21, 2012, 2012, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution

Manhattan Community Board 2 Resolution to Restore Funds Cut from Services to LGBT Youth

Whereas, in October of 2009 Mayor Bloomberg appointed a 25-member commission to study the needs of homeless LGBT youth and make recommendations as to how NYC could better prevent LGBT youth homelessness and more adequately care for those suffering homelessness; and

Whereas, the City released the Commission's report, which called for 200 additional beds for LGBT youth and expanded drop-in center hours (with a particular focus on the need for overnight drop-in hours) and expanded street outreach; and

Whereas, a census commissioned by the New York City Council released in 2008 indicated that on any given night 3,800 youth experience homelessness in NYC. As there are only several youth shelter and transitional beds available to this population, most youth rely on drop-in centers and street outreach to survive; and

Whereas, LGBT youth have difficulty accessing mainstream shelters where they often experience homophobic abuse, and therefore rely on drop-in and outreach services; and

Whereas, reducing these services will leave LGBT youth without support, forcing many to engage in high-risk antisocial behavior costing the city far more than the preventative services being cut; and

Whereas, our neighborhood has been significantly negatively affected by these cuts, because LGBT youth have been especially drawn to CB2 because of the diversity and tolerance of our residents and businesses, which make them feel welcomed and accepted; and

Whereas, Council Speaker Christine Quinn said "We recognize the difficult times we face and the need to make cuts to help address next year's budget gap. As we have done before, the Council is prepared to act in a fiscally responsible manner. However, we must ensure these cuts do not fall disproportionately on the most vulnerable New Yorkers, including LGBTQ runaway and homeless youth."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CB #2 Manhattan strongly objects to the budget proposal that would cut services to LGBT youth, and that we urge our Mayor and the members of the City Council to restore this funding and to make these monies a baseline item as they have been in the past so as to not harm our most vulnerable youth.

Vote: Unanimous, with 39 Board members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Brad Hoylman, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Lois Rakoff
Social Services and Education
Community Board #2, Manhattan

BH/gh

- c: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Thomas K. Duane, NY State Senator
Hon. Daniel L. Squadron, NY State Senator
Hon. Sheldon Silver, Assembly Speaker
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Member
Hon. Christine C. Quinn, Council Speaker
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member
Hon. Rosie Mendez, Council Member
Jessica Silver, Manhattan Borough President's office
Pauline Yu, Community Assistance Unit