

WHEREAS, the Lower East Side Harm Reduction Center (LESHRC) is currently authorized to offer syringe exchange outreach in Lower Manhattan through a State Department of Health Syringe Exchange Program waiver; and

WHEREAS, the current boundaries and hours for the waiver within the West Village is on Washington Street between Gansevoort and West 13th Street on Friday from 6 pm – 9:30 pm in the winter and 7 pm -11 pm in the summer; and

WHEREAS, the social networks of syringe exchange participants in the West Village have shifted and dispersed from the Meatpacking District to further south primarily on Christopher Street from 7th Avenue to the West Side Highway, encompassing the 10014 zip code; and

WHEREAS, the syringe exchange participants served in the West Village are primarily transgender individuals who use syringes for hormone injections, and have specialized needs related to gender transition, substance use, sexual risk, violence, and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, LESHRC provides a comprehensive array of harm reduction services which have directly contributed to lowering the incidence of transmission of HIV and Hepatitis C; and

WHEREAS, LESHRC connects difficult to reach constituencies to services they otherwise would not access including health care, mental health services, and case management, focused on improving the quality of life for those most marginalized; and

WHEREAS, LESHRC has been a member of the Lower East Side community for over twenty two (22) years and has its roots here as one of the premier harm reduction agencies; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history LESHRC has had a relationship with Community Board 3:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Manhattan Community Board 3 strongly supports the Lower East Side Harm Reduction Center's application to the New York State Department of Health to amend its Syringe Exchange Program waiver for outreach in the West Village on Friday from 8 – 11 pm within the boundaries of West 14th Street to the north, West Side Highway to the west, 6th Avenue to the east, and Canal Street to the south.