



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 3

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## October 2003 Resolutions

At its October 2003 monthly meeting, Community Board #3 passed the following motions:

### **TITLE: Community Residence at 257 East Broadway**

To approve the proposal by Bais Ezra to establish a community residence for eleven mentally retarded and developmentally disabled persons at 257 East Broadway, with the agreement that all advertising will be done in 4 languages and that a community advisory board will be established.

### **TITLE: Rockefeller Drug Laws Reform**

WHEREAS, In 1973, the Rockefeller Drug Laws were enacted and require harsh prison terms for the possession or sale of relatively small amounts of drugs (i.e., mandating a judge to impose a prison term of no less than 15 years to life for anyone convicted of selling 2 ounces or possessing 4 ounces of a narcotic substance); and

WHEREAS, Under the Rockefeller Drug Laws, these penalties apply without regard to the circumstances of the offense or the individual's character or background (e.g., whether the person is a first-time offender is irrelevant); and

WHEREAS, Currently, there are over 18,300 drug offenders incarcerated in New York State prisons, the vast majority of whom were convicted of minor, non-violent offenses; and

WHEREAS, The Rockefeller Drug Laws disproportionately affect poor people and people of color with African-Americans and Latinos comprising about 93% of the drug offenders in New York State prisons, although government studies show that the majority of people who use and sell drugs are white; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 65% of New York State prisoners are from New York City; and

WHEREAS, The cost of keeping an inmate in New York State prison for a year is about \$32,000, compared to between \$2,700-\$4,500 per person per year for outpatient drug treatment, and \$17,000-\$21,000 per person per year for residential drug treatment; and

WHEREAS, Every year, New York State spends almost \$590 million to imprison drug offenders, shifting funds toward corrections and away from drug education, community services, and drug treatment programs; therefore be it

RESOLVED, Community Board #3 urges Governor Pataki and the State Legislature to reform the Rockefeller Drug Laws by:

Restoring sentencing discretion to trial judges

Making sentencing reform retroactive, so that current inmates can petition to the courts for review of their sentences

Expanding the funds available for alternatives to incarceration, including drug treatment, job training, and education programs so that judges have an appropriate alternative to imprisonment

**TITLE: NYC Waste Prevention Coalition**

That Community Board #3 renews support for NYC Waste Prevention Coalition. The Coalition's goals are to promote waste prevention in New York City as a primary alternative to wasting resources and money.

**TITLE: Sanitation and Safety Condition on the Cooper Square Urban Renewal Area Site**

To urge HPD to fully enforce sanitation and safety matters on the Cooper Square Urban Renewal Area (CSURA) site they control on East 1st Street between 2nd Avenue and Bowery as they stated they would in their letter to Gretchen Green dated 8/26/03.

**TITLE: Lower Manhattan Development Corp. Partial Action Plan**

To reiterate our concern that the LMDC is planning to develop housing as part of their next Partial Action Plan to accommodate those with incomes in the \$50,000-85,000/year range; this does not serve the low income population which is most in need of assistance. Further, to request that the LMDC allow Community Board #3 more time to comment on the upcoming plan; that we will only be allowed two weeks to respond is ridiculous and insulting.

**TITLE: Trust for Public Land Application for Funds for Fences**

That Community Board #3 not support the application by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to the New York State Environmental Protection Fund for funds to purchase/install decorative fences. Community Board #3 does not oppose beautification measures but does oppose this use of public funds at this time because of fiscal shortage on all levels of government.

**TITLE: TLC License Renewal for W.K. Car & Limousine Service, Inc., 17 Allen Street, New York, NY 10002 (B01721)**

To approve the application by W.K. Car & Limousine Service, Inc. for renewal of the TLC license (B01721) for a For-Hire Base at 17 Allen Street.

**TITLE: Angle Parking for Forsyth St. from Hester to East Houston Streets**

To support DOT's proposal for angle parking along the east curb of Forsyth Street from Hester to East Houston Streets.

**TITLE: Speed Bumps for E. 5th Street between Aves B and C**

To recommend two speed bumps on the cul-de-sac block of East 5th Street between Avenues B and C, which is adjacent to a schoolyard. One speed bump could be located one-third of the distance into the block, and one could be located in the cul-de-sac to discourage "donuts". This is particularly important for the safety of the children attending the adjacent schools.

**TITLE: Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) Concept for "Welcoming Arch"**

To support the CCBA concept of a "Welcoming Arch" at an entrance to Chinatown, with the understanding that they will work with the appropriate agencies and will come back to Community Board #3 with a final proposal.