



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4**

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**J. LEE COMPTON**  
Chair

**ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.**  
District Manager

December 11, 2006

Governor George Pataki  
New York State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

**Re: Resolution from Manhattan Community Board 4 to save St. Vincent's Midtown Hospital**

Dear Governor Pataki:

Please reject the recommendations of the Berger Commission in order to keep the threatened St. Vincent's Midtown Hospital open and serving residents of the West Side of Manhattan.

St. Vincent's Midtown Hospital is a vital institution in Manhattan's booming and densely populated West Side. Our community has seen a significant increase in population, and its population will continue to grow as developments proceed in the newly rezoned Hudson Yards area. St. Vincent's Midtown helps thousands of West Side residents maintain their health. Many low-income seniors and working class families depend on St. Vincent's Midtown to provide primary and specialty health care, and deeply trust the long-term commitment of St. Vincent's Midtown Hospital to care for our community. Its Spellman Center for HIV and Related Diseases was the first Dedicated AIDS Center created in the state and it is also a New York State Designated Stroke Center, home of the Dave DeBusschere Cardiovascular Center. St. Vincent's Midtown Hospital is well known in our community for providing compassionate care and its willingness to serve all, regardless of income.

In addition to St. Vincent's excellent work as a community hospital, its emergency department is a major receiving center for the nearby Times Square/Midtown Business District and hotels and is key to public health and safety, particularly during New Year's Eve. The hospital's emergency preparedness protocols are a much copied, statewide model. We are particularly concerned that the closing of St. Vincent's Midtown would overburden other facilities in the area.

Manhattan Community Board 4 is deeply puzzled why the Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Berger Commission) has recommended closing St. Vincent's Midtown Hospital, despite strong recommendations to the contrary by its own Regional Advisory Committee (RAC). Furthermore, the NY State Department of Health, and the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) have shown high-level support of St Vincent's Midtown Hospital by awarding it a \$16.7 million HEAL NY Phase 2 restructuring grant.

In addition, community residents are concerned that if this vitally needed hospital were to close, it would be replaced by development that does not serve our community. Recent development in Hell's Kitchen has added significantly to our market-rate housing stock but has produced little for low-

income residents. If St. Vincent's property is sold to a real estate developer without a guarantee of producing affordable housing, the community would lose not only an institution that serves our neighborhood's most vulnerable residents but also an opportunity to provide housing for the working and poor families in our community.

Please reject the recommendations of the Berger Commission and let St. Vincent's Midtown Hospital remain a vital resource for the residents of Hell's Kitchen.

Sincerely,



J. Lee Compton  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board 4

cc: elected officials  
Antonia C. Novello, MD, NY State Dept of Health  
Thomas R. Frieden, MD, NYC Dept of Health Commissioner