



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND**  
Chair

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

June 22, 2009

Lilliam Barrios-Paoili, Commissioner  
New York City Department for the Aging  
2 Lafayette Street  
New York, NY 10007

**Re: Visiting Neighbors**

Dear Commission Barrios-Pauli:

Manhattan Community Board 4 has serious concern regarding the arbitrary cuts in the funding for one of the better care providers for seniors in our District. We urge consideration for restoration of grants to at least the former level of support.

The cuts in funding which were announced during the December holidays are miniscule compared to the overall New York City budget. Described as 'non-core services', this small amount represents 1/3 of the annual operating income for **Visiting Neighbors**. Volunteers can make up the difference only in terms of time.

The effectiveness of the services which **Visiting Neighbors** provide for a base of over 300 seniors in District 4 is well documented. With an average age of 87, these seniors depend on the regular contact from **Visiting Neighbors** as their sole contact with the community.

The Board understands the difficulty all Departments in the City have in the current economic climate, but we urge that effective programs which provide direct services to the people be assured of continuing support.

Sincerely,

Jean-Daniel Noland  
Chair  
Manhattan Community  
Board 4

Millie Glaberman  
Co-Chair  
Quality of Life Committee

Howard Smith  
Co-Chair  
Quality of Life Committee

cc: City Council Speaker Christine Quinn  
Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer