



NEW YORK STATE SENATE
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 7

February 1, 2013

Seth Diamond
Commissioner
New York City Department of Homeless Services
33 Beaver Street, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10004

Dear Commissioner Diamond:

Thank you for attending Community Board 7's public meeting regarding the West 95th Street homeless shelter on January 30, 2013. It is unfortunate that this was the first time you heard from the public on this important issue. Had sufficient notification gone out prior to the public hearing for the contract on December 13th, this would not have been the case. Today, we are writing to urge you to re-open the public comment period and hold another public hearing to enable the public, as well as our offices, to weigh in on this important contract.

On the afternoon of December 12, 2012, less than 24 hours before the public hearing was scheduled to take place, we sat in a room with your staff and directly asked them to detail the contracting process. Your representatives informed us that a formal hearing would be scheduled and that they would communicate those details to us directly. It is deeply concerning that your staff did not take this opportunity to inform us that the hearing was the very next day despite our requests and their knowledge that we had long sought the opportunity for this public hearing. While it is true that DHS met their legal notification obligations, which are minimal, we would have expected your staff to extend the simple courtesy of informing our offices.

Even if reasonable notice of the December 13, 2012 hearing had been afforded to our offices, or if any notification at all had been attempted with the community at large, no productive hearing could have been held on that date. By its own admission, DHS has not yet completed its proposed "fair share" analysis. Since that analysis is key to determining whether the proposed location is appropriate for this use, the hearing would logically follow, not precede, DHS's completion and public dissemination of this analysis.

We are writing today to demand that DHS schedule another public hearing and re-open the public comment period. Anything less would be side-stepping your legal obligation to hear from the public. The Mayor's Office of Contract Services has informed our offices that the decision

to re-open the public comment period or hold another public hearing is at the discretion of DHS. We implore you to take this step as a show of good faith towards the community and your colleagues in government.

We welcome continued conversation on this issue and look forward to your prompt response. As always, we are eager to work with you in the best interests of our communities.

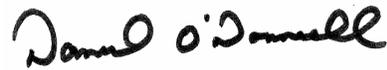
Sincerely,



Scott M. Stringer
Manhattan Borough President



Adriano Espaillat
State Senator



Daniel J. O'Donnell
Assembly Member



Linda B. Rosenthal
Assembly Member



Gale A. Brewer
Council Member



Mark Diller
Chair, Community Board 7