

COMMUNITY BOARD 11 1741 COLDEN AVENUE BRONX, NY 10462 (718) 892-6262 www.nyc.gov/bxcb11

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February 24, 2020

Dear Town Hall Attendee:

Please be advised that the City Department of Homeless Services and the proposed shelter provider, Care for the Homeless, **will not be** in attendance tonight, although Homeless Services was invited.

At the end of January, the City Department of Human Resources emailed CB11 the following information:

Top Lines for [1364 to] 1400 Blondell Avenue

Provider: Care for the Homeless **Population**: 200 Single Adult Men

Opening Date: Late 2021

Why CB11?

- At present there is <u>zero shelter capacity in CD11</u> for DHS clients from CD11 in our shelter system citywide.
 - There are 394 households comprised of 841 individuals FROM CD11 in shelters across the City, however, there are 0 individuals sheltered IN CD11.
 - There is currently zero capacity for New Yorkers experiencing homelessness in this entire Community District. 1364-1400 Blondell Ave will be the first of its kind, providing capacity for 200 New Yorkers experiencing homelessness to get back on their feet, with priority offered to those who have roots in Bronx Community District 11. Our goal is to offer New Yorkers experiencing homelessness from Bronx the opportunity to be sheltered in their home borough, closer to their support networks, including jobs, healthcare, family, social services, and communities they called home.

Background on Non-Profit

 Not-for-profit service provider Care for the Homeless (CFTH) manages highquality transitional housing, helping individuals in need stabilize their lives and get back on their feet. Our partnership with CFTH at this location will continue that work by serving and supporting 200 New Yorkers experiencing homelessness and mental health challenges as they get back on their feet.

- CFTH will provide an array of on-site services and off-site service linkages, providing individuals with the support that will help them stabilize their lives by returning to and maintaining independent living.
 - On-site services will include case management, individual and group counseling, permanency planning and housing placement assistance, referrals to medical and mental health services, support
- groups, independent living and life skills workshops, and residential services and support in finding and securing employment.
- Off-site service linkages will include primary healthcare, mental health services, substance use treatment, vocational training, employment placement, GED instruction, conflict mediation, and legal services.
- This location will serve individuals with mental health challenges. CFTH will provide mental health and behavioral health services on site, as well as connections to care in the community. Clinical staff will provide health education through coaching and counseling with the end goal of improved health outcomes and increasing client's self-sufficiency.
- CFTH will also work with CD11, local elected officials, and neighbors to facilitate employment opportunities for people living in the neighborhood.

Background on Security

- Additionally, a secure and safe environment is critical to the success of any program facility—
 and the NYPD works directly with DHS to oversee security in all shelters, including this one.
 - O CFTH will provide on-site security around-the-clock. Two security officers will be located at the entrance to control building access and to monitor security cameras, which will be located throughout the building and grounds. There will be a minimum of four security staff per shift and one supervisor overseeing security staff per shift.
 - CFTH will also provide a 24-hour open line for the community to provide feedback in a timely manner and to immediately address any concerns that may arise.
 - As an added measure, 40 security cameras will be installed throughout the building and across the shelter grounds. These cameras allow security officers to continually monitor compliance with house regulations and good neighbor policies both in and around the facility, acting as a deterrent for inappropriate or illegal activities. Recordings will be made available to authorities with proper legal documentation in the event that arrests or prosecution are warranted.
- There is a 10:00 PM curfew for New Yorkers experiencing homelessness. Clients who may be employed with late work hours will receive passes to return to the facility after curfew based on their documented work schedule.

Community Engagement

 For the new ongoing capacity we are opening citywide, at each new site, we are committed to establishing Community Advisory Boards (CABs), which hold regular meetings with the community to ensure any community concerns related to the facility or the surrounding area in the community are proactively addressed as they arise.

- When requested by communities at previous sites opened under the plan and for each new site we plan to open under the plan, we have and will continue to meet publicly with communities to discuss the new facilities, our phase-out of decades-old stop-gap measures, the transformation of the shelter system, and the ways in which we can most effectively work together to support New Yorkers experiencing homelessness as they get back on their feet.
- We remain deeply committed to working with interested community members and encourage community members looking for ways to support homeless New Yorkers to volunteer their time and talents, participate in the Advisory group, and join us at the table as we transform a haphazard shelter system that built up over decades.

The proposed shelter is officially located in Bronx CB11, but immediately across the street is CB10.

Google street view pictures of the property:





