



**The City of New York**  
**Manhattan Community Board 1**

**Tammy Meltzer** CHAIRPERSON | **Zach Bommer** DISTRICT MANAGER

July 10, 2024

Commissioner Molly Park  
Department of Social Services  
150 Greenwich St., 40th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Commissioner Park,

I am writing on behalf of Manhattan Community Board 1 (MCB1) to formally notify you of a resolution passed by our board concerning the proposed Safe Haven homeless shelter at 320 Pearl Street New York, NY 10038. After thorough deliberation and consideration of the potential impacts on our community, MCB1 has voted to strongly oppose the establishment of this type of shelter at the aforementioned location.

Our decision is grounded in the points encapsulated in the attached resolution. The most egregious concern is that the location directly abuts the public school, PS 343, The Peck Slip School, serving PK-5th grade families. There also has not been a public meeting for the school stakeholders prior to school ending for summer recess. Without these conversations with this vitally important community group, the siting of this location should cease all progress immediately.

In the resolution you will see the board cited community impact, lack of consultation, and a recommendation to change the type of use to a family shelter, which this community has demonstrated it has the resources to support. The resolution passed with no opposing votes and reflects the collective voice of our community.

We request this site be rejected outright as a Safe Haven and the City seek to use the location for another type of housing. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. We look forward to your response and to working together toward a solution that respects the needs and concerns of all stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Tammy Meltzer, Chair

COMMUNITY BOARD 1 – MANHATTAN.  
RESOLUTION

DATE: JUNE 25, 2024

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: QUALITY OF LIFE & DELIVERY SERVICES

COMMITTEE VOTE:	8 In Favor	0 Opposed	2 Abstained	0 Rescued
PUBLIC VOTE:	1 In Favor	0 Opposed	0 Abstained	0 Rescued
BOARD VOTE:	34 In Favor	0 Opposed	2 Abstained	0 Rescued

RE: Proposed Safe Haven by DSS/DHS at 320 Pearl Street with provider Breaking Ground

WHEREAS: Community Board 1 received notification from the Department of Social Services and the Department of Homeless Services on June 14, 2024 of the 320 Pearl Street, Manhattan planned Safe Haven to open in Fall of 2024; and

WHEREAS: CB1 currently has a DSS/DHS Safe Haven shelter with 84 beds located at 105 Washington that will open in early July but the notification stated 320 Pearl would be the first Safe Haven in the area; and

WHEREAS: The notification said this facility will provide safe haven housing with a capacity of 106 beds; and

WHEREAS: DHS/DSS notification stated that the service provider for the facility would be the not-for-profit organization Breaking Ground; and

WHEREAS: DSS/DHS notice for 320 Pearl Street did not account for the fact that the facility directly abuts a public elementary school; and

WHEREAS: The DSS/DHS notification was sent at the end of the school year with only six and a half school calendar days left, the PTA does not operate in the summer and CB1 is off in August. Insufficient notice denies any real opportunity for significant public engagement for this facility; and

WHEREAS: The building abuts The Peck Slip School, a public pre-k to 5th grade school with an active entrance and exit less than 40 feet from the entrance; and

WHEREAS: The Peck Slip school has windows that look directly into the rooms of the facility; and

WHEREAS: The Peck Slip School community supports a large group of (approximately 75) homeless migrant children; and

WHEREAS: The Peck Slip School community said they would be able to support additional children and has systems and resources to support homeless families; and

WHEREAS: Public schools will be on break with student, teachers, staffs and families not as available during the summer months; and

WHEREAS: CB1 is on holiday in the month of August and DHS/DSS already has another large topic with CB1 for July; and

WHEREAS: The Community and CB1 disagree with the siting of this location as a Safe Haven versus a Family Shelter; now

THEREFORE

BE IT

RESOLVED

THAT: CB1 strongly opposes a Safe Haven at the 320 Pearl Street location with the anticipated Fall 2024 opening; and

BE IT

FURTHER

RESOLVED

THAT: CB1 insists that DHS/DSS change the type of shelter to a family shelter; and

BE IT

FURTHER

RESOLVED

THAT: CB1 demands that DHS/DSS give sufficient time and notice for public meeting and engagement during the regular 2024-2025 school year; and

BE IT

FURTHER

RESOLVED

THAT: CB1 demands that the first public engagement is held after the 1st PTA meeting of Peck Slip School in September 2024 to allow for transparency and engagement of the school, residents and community that abut and surround the building.