

# THE CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 7

250 West 87<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10024 • Phone (212) 362-4008

Website: <https://nyc.gov/mcb7> • E-mail: [mn07@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:mn07@cb.nyc.gov)

*Steven Brown, Board Chair*

## RESOLUTION

**Date: May 3, 2022**

**Committee of Origin: Health & Human Services**

**Re: Food Insecurity and Access.**

**Full Board Vote: 33 In Favor 0 Against 1 Abstention 0 Present**

Food insecurity is generally defined as the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or the inability to acquire them without resorting to emergency food supplies or other coping strategies.

In recent years, New York City has made strides to reduce food insecurity among NYC residents; however, COVID-19 undermined much of that work and highlighted both the limited reach of those efforts and significant inequities in food security.

The following facts informed our knowledge and understanding of food insecurity and access and led to the recommendations in our Resolutions below:

- In its most recent Food Metrics Report released in December 2021, the NYC Mayor's Office of Food Policy estimates that approximately 1.4 million NYC residents (12.9%) are food insecure.
- As a result of long-entrenched structural racism, Black and Latinx NYC residents disproportionately experience food insecurity.
- Food insecurity has been repeatedly shown to be associated with diet-related chronic diseases and with poor health and educational outcomes among children, even for children who are only marginally food insecure.
- NYC is home for people from a diverse range of cultures, including immigrants who comprise 36% of the City's population. Research has shown that a lack of cultural inclusivity can be a barrier to people accessing food security programs.
- Moreover, as we have seen over the course of the pandemic, people of all ages who have obesity or other diet-related diseases experience higher risk of complications and death from COVID-19.
- The imminent need to ensure food security for all NYC residents is clear. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, New York City, State, and the Federal government moved rapidly to bolster existing food benefit and access programs and to launch new food distribution methods.
- Focusing specifically on the City's response, in March 2020, an interagency "Food Czar" team was formed to:
  - i. combat food insecurity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and
  - ii. secure and protect the City's food supply chain.
- In August 2020, the \$50 million emergency food reserve was transitioned instead to the Pandemic Food Reserve Emergency Distribution Program ("P-FRED"), with the intent of providing direct food resources to pantries and community organizations across the city.
- The GetFood programs were authorized under an emergency rule and thus are designed to be short-term emergency relief programs. These included the Department of Education Grab & Go Meal program and the Emergency Food Home-Delivered Meal program
- Early research indicates that the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") has been one of the most effective nutrition programs to alleviate poverty during the pandemic.

- New York Food 2025 is a collaborative effort by The Hunter College NYC Food Policy Center, The Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, and The CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute to examine the effects of the pandemic on New York City's food policies and programs.
- Building on their earlier report, New York Food 20/20: Vision, Research, and Recommendations During COVID-19 and Beyond, these organizations proposes specific policy measures that the NYC Mayor and City Council can consider to create a stronger, healthier, more just, and sustainable food system in New York City. The researchers identified the following takeaways:
  - High levels of engagement in food benefit programs among eligible populations during periods of non-crisis can be protective during periods of active crisis and its aftermath.
  - Increasing maximum SNAP benefit to households can increase program participation, increase household resources for food purchases, and decrease food insecurity among very low-income households.
  - Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility for SNAP at the state level can increase the pool of eligible households and promote program enrollment during economic downturn.
  - Making SNAP more readily available to eligible Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents is an effective mechanism for increasing program enrollment by expanding the eligible pool of applicants and providing a greater incentive for households to apply
  - Policy modifications such as the SNAP Expanded Disaster Evacuee Policy and flexibilities to the Child Nutrition Program that enable multiple school districts to operate out of the same location but claim meals separately are effective mechanisms for serving misplaced individuals immediately after a crisis.
  - The City's efforts combined with New York State programs, such as Nourish New York, which reroutes surplus agricultural products to New York food banks food insecurity during COVID-19.
  - Throughout the pandemic, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's ("USDA") Food to distribute food and funding and to enact waivers and flexibilities (more than 4,000 issued nationally to date) to existing programs to enable states to best meet the needs of local communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan **urges** Mayor Eric Adams and the City Council to promote legislation with appropriate funding to implement the following policy recommendations by the end of 2022:

- Improve the nutritional quality of food assistance programs. Reducing food insecurity by ensuring access to nutritionally adequate foods will not only help prevent diet-related chronic diseases, but it can also help protect people from facing serious complications from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.
- Allocate additional funding for institutional kitchen infrastructure upgrades and professional development of kitchen staff. Having the skills and tool to prepare and safely store perishable foods is essential to increase freshly prepared and plant-based meals that are appealing in schools and other institutional settings.
- Providing nutritious meals via on-going food assistance programs as well as during crisis-specific events will improve the resiliency of NYC's food system and the overall health of its population.
- Work with State and Federal agencies to reduce complexities and streamline food assistance policies going forward. The waivers and flexibilities issued NY Food 2025 Goal 15 during the pandemic by the U.S. Department of Agriculture regarding the national school lunch program were critical to enabling schools to continue providing meals to students.

- New York City should work with State and Federal agencies to expand SNAP benefits to enable more individuals to purchase nutritionally adequate food in times of need, with a focus on minimally processed fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan **requests** that between 2022 and 2025, the Mayor and the City Council should also draft new preparedness plans for future large-scale states of emergency. COVID-19 which continues to be a novel threat to public health leaving too many NYC residents' food insecure and at risk of becoming food insecure. To achieve this:

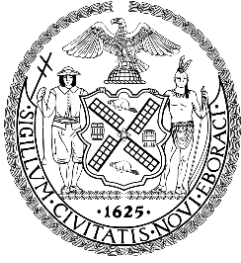
- Funding should be allocated for the Mayor's Office of Food Policy to appoint a team to conduct a thorough trans-agency assessment of programs deployed during COVID-19.
- The Mayor's Office of Food Policy should consult with food pantries, the Office of Food and Nutrition Services at the NYC Department of Education, the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, the Task Force on Racial Inclusion and Equity and the staff of the NYC Civic Engagement Commission, as well as other agencies, and community-based organizations to gather community input on what is needed to ensure culturally inclusive food programs and policies in NYC.
- The Mayor's Office of Food Policy should draft updated preparedness plans and establish procedures for regular scheduled review and updates to plans that address the nutritional quality of emergency foods, so that New York City is ready to anticipate and effectively respond to future needs.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan **requests** that the City's food policies and programs should continue striving to embrace and respect the diversity of our population. To achieve this:

- An important consideration is that dietary restrictions related to cultural or religious beliefs may hinder people's ability to make use of food programs if inclusive options are not available (e.g. lack of halal or kosher options).

Specifically, New York City should support efforts of the NYC Department of Education to continue to expand the diversity of food options available in schools to be more inclusive of the variety of cultures in NYC.

Committee: 5-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Member: 1-0-0-0.



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*Steven Brown, Board Chair*

## RESOLUTION

**Date: May 3, 2022**

**Committee of Origin: Preservation**

**Re: 229 West 71<sup>st</sup> Street (Broadway - West End Avenue.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness to add a fifth full floor and a partial rooftop addition, and add a full-width, full-height rear addition, and replace the front and rear facades, cladding and fenestration.**

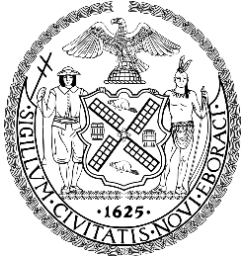
**Full Board Vote: 34 In Favor 2 Against 0 Abstentions 0 Present**

*Committee: 6-0-2-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 1-0-0-0.*

This resolution is based on the following facts:

The building, originally a 16' wide four-story rowhouse built in 1884, was very substantially altered in the late 1940's and afterward. Essentially no original features of the exterior remain. The building was listed in the LPC Designation Report for the Historic District as "No Style". The application is to remove the front and rear cladding, raise the height to six stories (with a setback at the front), raise the front entry, add a rear addition, replace all fenestration with wide central multi-pane windows units, and install shallow balconies with metal railings.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan **approves** the application as appropriate to the Historic District, with a recommendation that genuine limestone (as opposed to cast stone) be used at the first two floors of the front façade, and that the applicant revisit the design of the multi-pane windows at the front façade.



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## RESOLUTION

**Date: May 3, 2022**

**Committee of Origin: Preservation**

**Re: 330 West 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, Apt #7B (Riverside Blvd - West End Avenue.) Application #LPC-22-08221 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness for window replacements.**

**Full Board Vote: 33 In Favor 0 Against 3 Abstentions 1 Present**

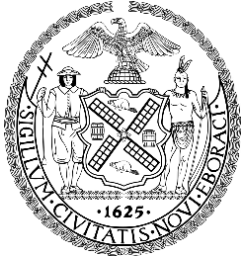
**Committee: 4-3-0-1.**

This resolution is based on the following facts:

The application is to replace non-original existing front façade one-over-one windows with one-over-one windows by Panorama Windows. The apartment owner explained to the Preservation Committee that the Landmarks Preservation Commission had approved an application by Panorama to replace the existing front façade windows in her apartment and two other apartments in the building with three-over-one double hung windows. She further stated that she had Panorama's and the coop's agreement that her windows could be replaced with one-over-ones as part of the Panorama project if LPC approved one-over-ones in her case. She stated that LPC's requirement that replacement windows on the façade be three-over-one was inconsistent with the original windows, which she stated had been six-over-one, as stated in the Designation Report.

It was not completely clear to the members of the Preservation Committee what the original window configuration on this façade had been – six-over-one or three-over-one. Also, the current windows on this façade consist of a wide variety of different types.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan **approves** the application as appropriate to the Historic District.



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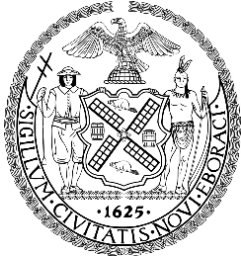
**Committee of Origin: Business & Consumer Issues**

**Re: 247 West 72<sup>nd</sup> Street** (Broadway – West End Avenue.)

**Full Board Vote: 39 In Favor 0 Against 0 Abstentions 0 Present**

*Committee 7-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 3-0-0-0.*

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan **approves** new application to the SLA for two-year liquor license by Thank you God, LLC d/b/a Kebab Aur Sharab.



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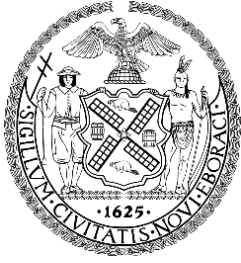
**Committee of Origin: Business & Consumer Issues**

**Re: 2 West 69<sup>th</sup> Street (Central Park.)**

**Full Board Vote: 39 In Favor 0 Against 0 Abstentions 0 Present**

*Committee: 7-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 2-0-0-0.*

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan **approves** New and Temporary Retail Permit application to the SLA for two-year liquor license by APQ Mineral Springs NY, LLC d/b/a Le Pain Quotidien



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## RESOLUTION

**Date: May 3, 2022**

**Committee of Origin: Business & Consumer Issues**

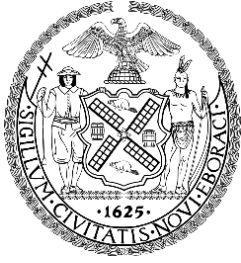
**Re: 489 Columbus Avenue (West 83<sup>rd</sup> – 84<sup>th</sup> Street.)**

**Full Board Vote: 37 In Favor 0 Against 0 Abstentions 0 Present**

*Committee: 7-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 2-0-0-0.*

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan **disapproves without prejudice** Class Change application to the SLA for two-year liquor licenses by Shivhari, Inc. d/b/a Ashoka.





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## RESOLUTION

**Date: May 3, 2022**

**Committee of Origin: Transportation**

**Re: 72 West 109<sup>th</sup> Street (Columbus Avenue.)**

**Full Board Vote: 39 In Favor 0 Against 0 Abstentions 0 Present**

*Committee: 7-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 2-0-0-0.*

BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** renewal Application #B02228 to NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission by Special Radio Dispatcher, Corp., for a renewal of their For Hire Base Station License.