

THE CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 7

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

Website: <https://nyc.gov/mcb7> • E-mail: mn07@cb.nyc.gov

RESOLUTION

Date: February 7, 2023

Committee of Origin: Health & Human Services

Re: Manhattan School for Children's Proposal for an Inclusive Playground on the JOA Campus.

Full Board Vote: 38 In Favor 0 Against 0 Abstentions 0 Present

Committee: 8-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 5-0-0-0.

This resolution is based on the following information and facts:

The purpose of this initiative is to implement an Inclusive Playground at the Joan of Arc Education Complex.

By building an inclusive playground, the goal will be to make Joan of Arc Educational Complex the first truly inclusive learning school both inside the classroom and outside in the playground in New York City and a model that can be replicated at other schools.

The plan is based on the belief that play is an essential form of learning and social emotional well-being for children and meets the needs of all our students.

Manhattan School for Children (MS 333), Community Action School (MS258) and Lafayette Academy (MS256) are co-located in the Joan of Arc Educational Complex located at 154 W 93rd Street. All three schools are in accord on developing this Inclusive Playground on their campus and are working together.

In the three schools, 174 of the students out of a total of 788, or 22%, are students with disabilities.

The playground design will benefit the entire CB 7 community, including children with typical and atypical needs, and people of all ages, cultures, and genders.

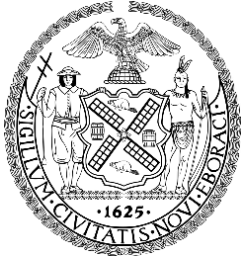
The Inclusive Playground Model will build on successful community-engagement and playground design elements of the Bloomingdale Inclusive Playground at PS 145 on 104th Street that was developed by the CB7 Inclusive Playground Task Force.

This Inclusive Playground, like the one at Bloomingdale, will be developed as a safe and fun community space for children with diverse abilities and disabilities to play together.

This project is in accord with MCB7's Core and Working Principle of Inclusion, to value diversity, consideration of others and promotion of the common good.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVES THAT Community Board 7 / Manhattan **supports** the development of an Inclusive Playground at the Joan of Arc Complex and the goal of developing a truly inclusive learning school both inside the classroom and outside in the playground at the school.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7 / Manhattan **requests** the support of Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine and Councilmember Gale Brewer to assist the school and the community with the financing of this project and in facilitating negotiations with city government and agencies necessary to move the project forward.



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RESOLUTION

Date: February 7, 2023

Committee of Origin: Health & Human Services

Re: Manhattan DA Investing \$9 million for Mental Health for those who are Arrested.

Full Board Vote: 29 In Favor 0 Against 7 Abstentions 0 Present

Committee: 7-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 5-0-0-0.

This resolution is based on the following information and facts:

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin L. Bragg, Jr., in partnership with the CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance (ISLG), announced a new \$9 million mental health initiative to immediately reach New Yorkers with deeply entrenched needs.

The initiatives aim to meet people where they are and connect them to comprehensive wraparound community support services, including housing assistance and treatment for mental illness and substance use disorders in their own communities to make them and their neighbors safer.

These programs are informed by input from Manhattan community-based organizations and residents on what they have found to be the most successful strategies for creating strong, stable and safe communities. These initiatives also reflect D.A. Bragg's belief that keeping people safe requires strengthening people's connections to resources in their own neighborhoods that can help them to lead healthy and successful lives.

They also illustrate the Office's belief that the criminal justice system is not the most effective way to address mental and behavioral health issues or substance use.

The District Attorney's Office is investing at two distinct points: directly in neighborhoods and at criminal court arraignment. These investments are independent from all court mandated programs.

Together, these initiatives aim to interrupt persistent recidivism and create lasting improvements in public safety by addressing the needs of those most in need in Manhattan by building trusting relationships and connecting them with long-term services such as supportive housing and treatment.

These dual initiatives are:

- Up to \$6 million for "Neighborhood Navigators." These professionally trained individuals will work directly with unhoused individuals who may have mental health challenges or substance use issues and connect them with services. These navigators are not part of the criminal justice system, but rather social service experts who can help clients maneuver through a complex bureaucracy that too often is difficult to navigate for people seeking the help they need. They will build lasting relationships and ultimately connect people to food, clothes, medical supplies, and other key services.
- Up to \$3 million to place "Court-Based Navigators" in all Criminal Court arraignment parts. These professionally trained individuals will serve a similar high-needs population to the Neighborhood Navigators and will additionally focus on individuals who have a history of recidivism. Any services will be separate from any programming related to an individual case. The grant solicitation for this funding is expected to be released in January, 2023.

The Manhattan D.A.'s Office is providing these awards through its Criminal Justice Investment Initiative ("CJII"), which was created with millions of dollars seized from major banks during criminal investigations and is administered by the CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance.

NEIGHBORHOOD NAVIGATORS

This solicitation seeks proposals from community-based organizations to develop networks of Neighborhood Navigators who operate directly in the community and build relationships with individuals who are unhoused or who have unstable housing and spend significant time in the streets, and who face challenges with mental health or substance use. This program will be directly overseen and managed by the CUNY ISLG.

The solicitation seeks proposals to oversee programs in the following focus neighborhoods:

- Washington Heights and/or Inwood
- Chinatown and/or the Lower East Side
- Central and/or East Harlem
- Hell's Kitchen and/or Midtown West and/or Chelsea

Grants may be provided to serve similar populations in other neighborhoods based on need, with funding for up to 6 total neighborhoods available.

Each grant will support six months of planning and three years of implementation.

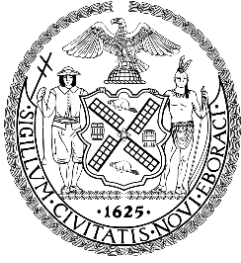
COURT-BASED NAVIGATORS

Court-based Neighborhood Navigators will make an initial connection with individuals after their criminal court appearance, and then follow up with them in their communities to provide additional support. Initially navigators will help participants connect to essentials, such as Metro Cards, meals, clean clothes, and food. The goal of this phase is to build an initial connection, which is essential for developing a trusting relationship that can lead to longer-term services. Once trust is developed, the navigator can facilitate connections to treatment programs, supportive housing and more. These navigators can also help their clients deal with court mandates while they have cases pending, helping to ensure they make their court appearances and drive down recidivism.

In addition to these investments, earlier this year D.A. Bragg announced the creation of the Office's first-ever Pathways to Public Safety Division, which is elevating the use of diversion and evidence-based programming. Each of the Office's six Trial Division bureaus has a dedicated Pathways prosecutor to help proactively identify appropriate opportunities for diversion at the beginning stages of a case in the Office's Early Case Assessment Bureau.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7 / Manhattan **supports** Manhattan D.A Bragg's Initiatives to fund interventions that prevent people from becoming involved in the criminal legal system or provide them with support upon arrest so that they avoid incarceration.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7 / Manhattan **urges** Manhattan D.A Bragg to extend the Neighborhood Navigator solicitation for proposals to Upper West Side and Manhattan Valley community-based organizations to develop networks of Neighborhood Navigators who operate directly in the community and build relationships with individuals who are unhoused or who have unstable housing and spend significant time in the streets, and who face challenges with mental health or substance use.



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RESOLUTION

Date: February 7, 2023

Committee of Origin: Parks & Environment

Re: Reconstruction of step ramps in Riverside Park at West 105th Street.

Full Board Vote: 32 In Favor 2 Against 5 Abstentions 0 Present

Committee: 6-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 9-0-0-0.

WHEREAS, the site of the project concerns the two staircases located at West 105th Street inside Riverside Park and adjacent to the seasonal concessionaire *Ellington in the Park* (the "Site");

WHEREAS, the goal of the project is to reconstruct the two deteriorated step ramps by reusing the existing granite risers and replacing the existing bluestone pavers in-kind;

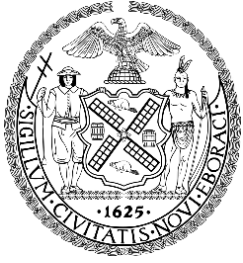
WHEREAS, the purpose of the project, in part, is to rectify trip hazards and irregular conditions that pose safety risks at the Site;

WHEREAS, some portions of the Site's foundation will be replaced, an ADA-compliant center handrail and a guardrail on the western-side cheekwalls will be installed;

WHEREAS, the existing trench drains on the staircase will be removed; and

WHEREAS, construction will be phased to keep one stair open at all times, and the concessionaire and restrooms will continue to operate throughout, seasonally.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7 / Manhattan enthusiastically approves this restoration, which is true to the historic character of Riverside Park. We believe this project is much needed to improve the condition of the Site and the safety of visitors' experience in this area.



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RESOLUTION

Date: February 7, 2023

Committee of Origin: Parks & Environment

Re: MBPO's "Million More Trees" initiative.

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

WHEREAS, in February 2022, the five borough presidents of New York City unanimously called on Mayor Eric Adams to provide funding to plant one million new trees by 2030; and

WHEREAS, New York City currently has roughly 7 million trees, in comparison to its 8.8 million residents; and

WHEREAS, trees improve the liveability of the city by helping clean the air of pollutants, cooling city streets, absorbing stormwater, serving as refuge for wildlife, promoting human health and well-being and, of course, adding beauty; and

WHEREAS, tree planting and cover throughout the City is also an issue of equity and environmental justice. Some neighborhoods have long enjoyed the benefits of extensive tree coverage, while communities of color and those with lower incomes remain under-planted and under-covered; and

WHEREAS, there isn't sufficient budget for the long-term care of trees, or for tree stewardship training of individuals; and

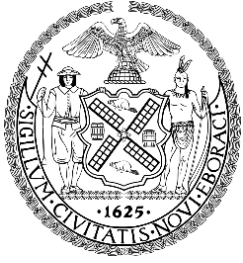
WHEREAS, Councilmember Gale Brewer's office has prioritized the condition and health of trees in District 6. The office conducted a comprehensive tree survey in the spring of 2022, in which 5,248 trees were studied. Results of the survey were shared with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Transportation. In addition, last year, Greening Broadway, a project to fund the installation of 35 trees and tree guards on the sidewalks along Broadway, won \$250,000 of participatory budgeting funding; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7 / Manhattan supports the call from the five borough presidents of New York City to the Mayor to provide funding to plant one million new trees by 2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7 / Manhattan calls on the City to invest in urban forestry/tree stewardship programs focused on both youth and non-youth participants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7 / Manhattan calls on the City to invest the funds for this project equitably, so that under-planted and under-covered neighborhoods can also start to enjoy the benefits of tree coverage, particularly communities of color and low-income communities that lack extensive tree cover, and neighborhoods with high incidences of asthma and other respiratory illness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7 / Manhattan calls on the City to honor the Mayor's pledge to spend 1% of the municipal budget on the City's parks. This funding should be independent of The One Million More Trees Initiative.



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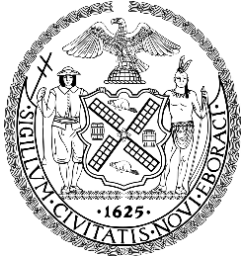
Committee of Origin: Business & Consumer Issues

Re: 953 Amsterdam Avenue (West 106th – 107th Streets.)

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

Committee: 4-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Member: 1-0-0-0.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** New and Temporary Retail Permit application to the SLA for a two-year liquor license by TSR 953, Corp d/b/a Tropical Sensation.



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RESOLUTION

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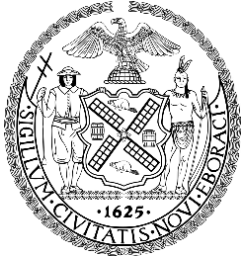
Committee of Origin: Business & Consumer Issues

Re: 425 Amsterdam Avenue (West 80th – 81st Streets.)

Full Board Vote: 38 In Favor 0 Against 0 Abstentions 0 Present

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** New and Temporary Retail Permit application to the SLA for a two-year liquor license by entity to be formed by Martin Whelan and Randy Adams d/b/a TBD.



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RESOLUTION

Date: February 7, 2023

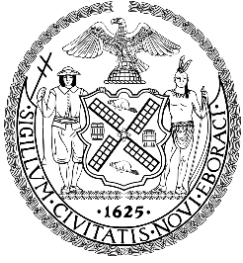
Committee of Origin: Business & Consumer Issues

Re: 668B-670A Amsterdam Avenue (West 93rd Street.)

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** Alteration application to the SLA for a two-year liquor license by Talia's Restaurant Group, LLC d/b/a Talia's Steakhouse.



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RESOLUTION

Date: February 7, 2023

Committee of Origin: Preservation

Re: 45 West 81st Street (Columbus Avenue – Central Park West.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a certificate of appropriateness for a one-story rooftop addition.

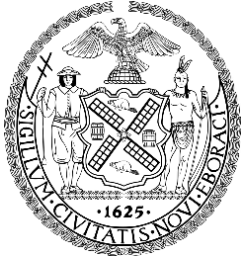
Full Board Vote: 28 In Favor 7 Against 1 Abstention 0 Present

Committee: 4-3-0-0. Non-Committee Board members: 4-0-0-0.

This resolution is based on the following facts:

1. The building was designed by Sugarman & Hess and built in 1922. It has a distinctive double pediment on its primary (south) façade, facing Theodore Roosevelt Park and the Museum of Natural History. The building has operated primarily as a transient hotel and is being converted to condominiums. As presented to the CB7 Preservation Committee at its January 2023 meeting, the applicant proposed a full-width penthouse addition at the sixteenth-floor front façade, with a ten-foot setback on the front and no setbacks on the east or west. The front façade would be almost entirely glass windows surrounded (as presented to the CB7 Preservation Committee) by dark gray metal frames, and the east and west facades would be solid matte lighter gray metal. The penthouse addition would be visible from the park and museum across 81st Street, and from Columbus Avenue.
2. Preservation Committee members expressed various concerns about the application, including the public visibility of the proposed addition, its height, the narrowness of the ten-foot setback, the width of the addition (full width on the east and west), and the degree to which the proposed design clashes with the existing architecture. They also suggested that the glass be bird-safe and that the penthouse roof be a “green roof” (that is, covered with live plants).
3. After the Preservation Committee meeting and adoption of its proposed resolution to be presented to the CB7 Full Board at its February 2023 meeting, the applicant advised CB7 that it had modified its proposed design in response to comments by Preservation Committee members. Those changes included changing the color of the façades of the addition from gray to buff, to coordinate better with the color of the brick of the building façade, setting the west wall of the addition back by three feet, and adding windows to the east and west façades. These changes were welcome to the members of the Preservation Committee, which expresses its appreciation to the applicant for making them.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** the application as presented, and as subsequently modified, as minimally appropriate to the historic architecture of the building and of the Historic District, with a strong recommendation that the glass be bird-proof (whether required by Code) and that the penthouse roof be a “green roof”.



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RESOLUTION

Date: February 7, 2023

Committee of Origin: Preservation

Re: 392 Columbus Avenue (West 79th Street.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a certificate of appropriateness for storefront alterations which includes the installation of windows, signage, lighting, and awnings.

Full Board Vote: 34 In Favor 1 Against 0 Abstentions 0 Present

Committee: 6-0-1-0. Non-Committee Board members: 3-0-0-0.

This resolution is based on the following facts:

1. This is a corner commercial space that has been a restaurant for decades. The new tenant/applicant is Wafels & Dinges, a Belgian waffle company that has been operating from food trucks in various locations. The three new awnings would be sunflower yellow (referencing the Belgian flag), and there would be new exterior lighting, new operable windows with signage below, and an additional partially illuminated sign. The Columbus Avenue BID supports the application.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** the application as presented, as reasonably appropriate to the historic architecture of the building and of the Historic District.

Committee: 6-0-1-0. Non-Committee Board members: 3-0-0-0.