



Donovan Richards
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Community Board No. 2

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Morry Galonoy
Chairperson

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April 12, 2022

Ms. Heyward R. Donigan
President & CEO
Rite Aide
30 Hunter Lane
Camp Hill, PA 17011

RE: **Closure of Rite Aide Store at 46-12 Greenpoint Avenue, Sunnyside, Queens**

Dear Ms. Donigan:

Community Board 2, Queens, NY is writing with urgency to ask you to reconsider closing the Rite Aide store at 46-12 Greenpoint Avenue, Sunnyside, Queens, NY.

We are concerned that the closure of this large, renovated store that serves many of our neighbors including senior citizens will leave many without a neighborhood drugstore. This closure will be a hardship for those who rely on this location and may not be able to easily get to another Rite Aide or drug store that is farther away, outside of the neighborhood.

This is pressing given that Queens was the epicenter of the Coronavirus Pandemic and is continuing to recover. Many area residents are impacted by Coronavirus and/or other medical conditions that make this Rite Aide store integral to their health and wellbeing. We are still in the process of vaccinating with the second booster shot just recently becoming available and we are hearing of a new strain of the virus that may lead to renewed precautions.

As many in Queens are recovering from the loss of employment and income, we are concerned about potential layoffs of longtime Rite Aide employees. We question why this location is being closed and hope it is not because it is unionized as suggested in this April 7 article in the Sunnyside post (<https://sunnysidepost.com/rite-aid-on-greenpoint-avenue-to-close-april-25-employees-stunned>).

"Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth"

New York and Queens have a long, proud history of supporting organized labor. This is further demonstrated by our community's support of recent labor organizing of Amazon workers on Staten Island and at a Starbucks in nearby Astoria, Queens.

For the reasons outlined in this letter, we ask you to delay this closure and come to speak with store employees and the community. We are hopeful that you will engage with us and reconsider your decisions to close the 46-12 Greenpoint Avenue, Sunnyside, Queens location.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager, Community Board 2 Queens



Morry Galonoy
Chairperson, Community Board 2 Queens

Cc: Honorable Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, US Congress
Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, US Congress
Honorable Grace Meng, US Congress
Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez, US Congress
Honorable Michael Gianaris, NY State Senate
Honorable Brian Barnwell, NYS Assembly
Honorable Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, NYS Assembly
Honorable Catherine T. Nolan, NYS Assembly
Honorable Robert Holden, NYC Council Member
Honorable Shekar Krishnan, NYC Council Member
Honorable Julie Won, NYC Council Member
Honorable Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President

Rite Aide 46-12 Greenpoint Avenue, Sunnyside



43-31 39th Street
Sunnyside, NY 11104
scsny.org



Sunnyside UP at Sunnyside Community Services offers a free 3-K and pre-K program-with available, affordable aftercare.

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Email info@scsny.org
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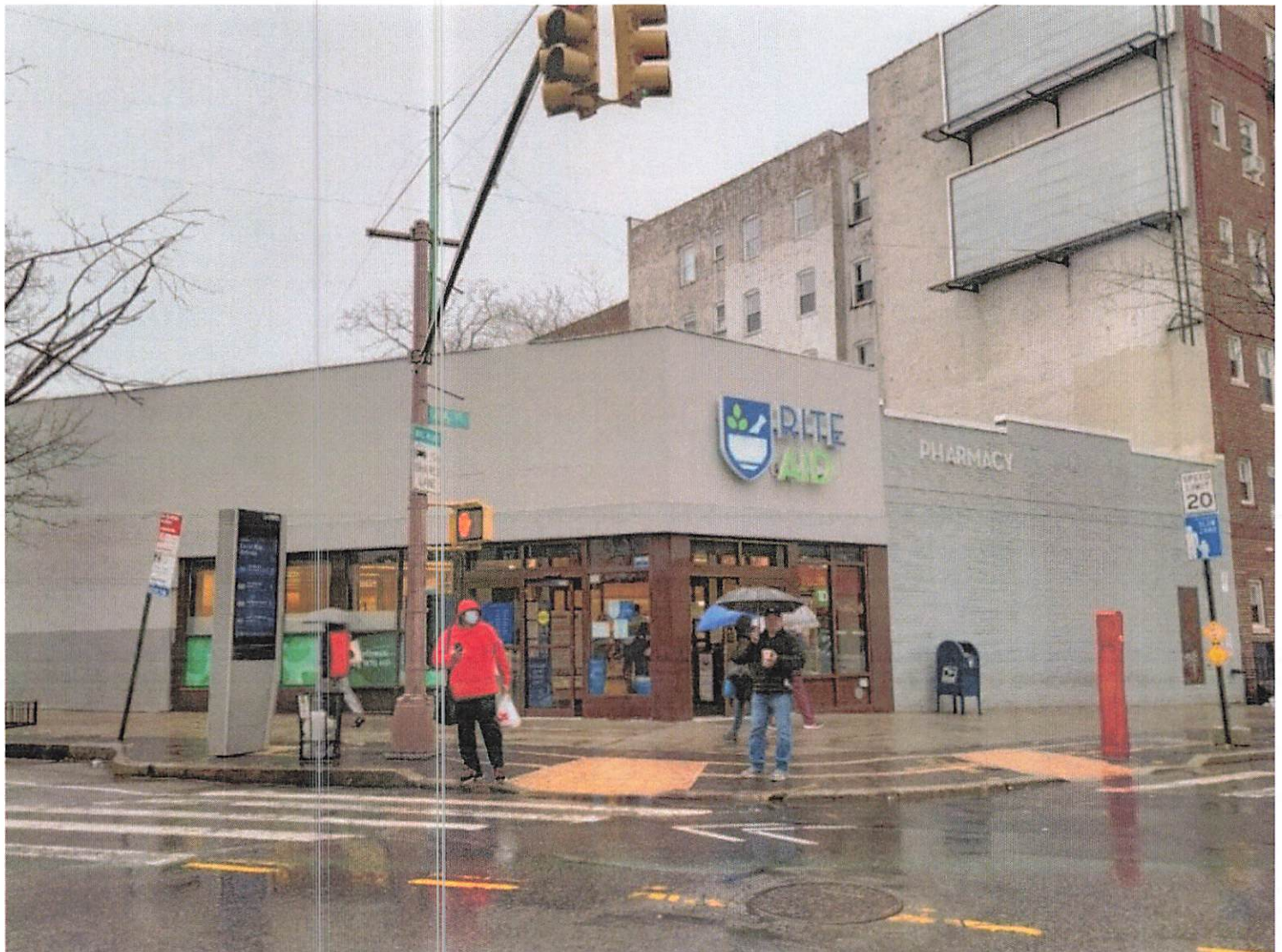
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YOU ARE READING

Rite Aid on Greenpoint Avenue to Close April 25, Employees Stunned



April 7, 2022 By Christian Murray

The Rite Aid store in the heart of Sunnyside will be closing later this month.

Employees at the 46-12 Greenpoint Ave. store were notified Wednesday that it will shutter on April 25 and were stunned.

“I’m really upset,” said one employee, a Woodside resident who has been a pharmacy technician at the store for 36 years. “It’s very disheartening that after all these years they give us just two weeks notice.”

The employee said that she has yet to hear from Rite Aid’s human resources department as to whether she will be offered a job elsewhere or will be terminated from the company. She said that the employees at the store are not hopeful since Rite Aid has been closing many stores.

The Rite Aid on Greenpoint Avenue serves a large number of residents, the employee said, with the store taking up nearly half the block. She said that many people will be shocked when they hear the news.

The Queens Post was unable to reach Rite Aid’s corporate office for comment.

The employee said that it was a toss-up between the Greenpoint Avenue store and the store on 50-12 Roosevelt Ave. as to which would close. She said that the Greenpoint Avenue store is “union” and the Roosevelt Avenue store nonunion.

She anticipates that people’s prescriptions will be transferred to the Roosevelt Avenue store, although she was not certain. She believes that about 30 people are employed at the Greenpoint store.

Assemblywoman Cathy Nolan, who also just learned of Rite Aid’s plans to shut the store, said the planned closure represents a big loss to the Sunnyside community.

“This business is central to the neighborhood, and vital to our seniors who rely on the nearness of the pharmacy for access to their medication,” Nolan said in a statement. “Not only is this a blow to the residents of the area, but to the unionized staff of this Rite Aid location, who were given quite short notice of the closure.”

“It is my understanding that a number of Rite Aid locations which have been slated to close happen to be unionized, and I will be contacting 1199, community leaders, and partners in government to discuss this trend and the needs of the community as a result of this plan,” Nolan added.



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