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VACANT, ASST. SECRETARY

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX
211 EAST 43RD STREET, SUITE 1404
NEW YORK, NY 10017

VIA E-MAIL

February 16, 2022

Gary Jenkins
Commissioner
New York City Department of Social Services
150 Greenwich St., 40th Fl.
New York, NY 10007

Council Member Diana Ayala
Chair, Committee on General Welfare
250 Broadway, Suite 1880
New York, NY 10007

Urging the Department of Homeless Services to inform CB6 of intentions to site any shelter in our district before such decisions are finalized

At the February 9, 2022 Full Board meeting of Manhattan Community Board Six, the Board adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Manhattan Community Board Six (“CB6”) welcomes appropriate and life-saving support services for the homeless population of New York City, thousands of whom are our own constituents;

WHEREAS, current law does not give Community Boards or local elected officials any jurisdictional role in approving or siting homeless shelters;

WHEREAS, CB6 often serves as a forum for Manhattan Community District 6 (“CD6”) constituents to voice comments, questions, and concerns about the Department of Homeless Services’ (“DHS”) plans to open new facilities in CD6;

WHEREAS, DHS has consistently failed to provide adequate advance notice to CB6, the elected legislators who represent this district, and the public, of any public hearing on siting decisions;

WHEREAS, an opportunity for public comment allows questions of fact about a proposal to be addressed earlier in the process and promotes transparency and community participation;

WHEREAS, the *City Charter* requires the City to “consider the relative fairness of burdens – as well as benefits – during the land-use process ...”¹ and DHS has consistently failed to provide such a Fair Share Analysis in advance of both public hearings and meetings of CB6’s Housing & Homelessness Committee;

WHEREAS, DHS has consistently failed to provide a list of shelter sites, both permanent and temporary density-reduction sites in CD6 and neighboring community districts, which would allow our office to provide accurate and reliable responses to the questions and concerns our constituents have, specifically about how the number of homeless shelters located in our district compares to our neighboring districts;

WHEREAS, DHS has consistently failed to respond to questions from CB6 relating to DHS’ evaluations of sites and decision-making, the threshold for the number of sites within 400 feet or ½ mile that might lead to a cumulative negative impact on the neighborhood, the density of facilities across community district boundaries, and the data set used to compile Fair Share Analysis documents;

WHEREAS, incomplete, inaccurate, and outdated information makes it impossible for CB6 to carry out our City Charter-mandated duties and has contributed to a climate of confusion;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Manhattan Community Board Six urges New York City Department of Homeless Services to inform the Community Board and public of any interest in locating a shelter or supportive housing facility in our district, and include public input in their determination process for any such facilities, ***before*** any such sites are approved to locate and begin operations by DHS.

VOTE: 38 In favor 2 Opposed 0 Abstain 0 Not entitled

Best regards,



Jesús Pérez
District Manager

Cc: Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Keith Powers, Council Member
Hon. Carlina Rivera, Council Member
Hon. Julie Menin, Council Member
Leilani Irvin, Manhattan Borough Director, NYC Department of Social Services
Rich Mintz, Chair, CB6 Housing & Homelessness Committee

¹ See N.Y. CITY COUNCIL, DOING OUR FAIR SHARE, GETTING OUR FAIR SHARE: REFORMING NYC’S SYSTEM FOR ACHIEVING FAIRNESS IN SITING MUNICIPAL FACILITIES 5 (2017), <http://council.nyc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/2017-Fair-Share-Report.pdf>.