

Ratification of Letter of Support re: The “Homes Now” budget demand to invest \$2.5 billion dollars over five years into the City capital budget for permanently-affordable housing.



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COMMUNITY BOARD 9
MANHATTAN**

Morningside Heights
Manhattanville
Hamilton Heights
Sugar Hill

June 4, 2024

Hon. Eric Adams
Mayor
City Hall
New York, New York 1007

Dear Mayor Adams,

Due to time constraints, on Tuesday, June 4th, 2024 Manhattan Community Board No. 9's Executive Committee (with 11 members Present) acting on behalf of the full board unanimously approved the following **LOS re: The “Homes Now” budget demand to invest \$2.5 billion dollars over five years into the City capital budget for permanently-affordable housing.**

We are writing as a consortium of Community Boards across the City to express support for the “Homes Now” budget demand to invest \$2.5 billion dollars over five years into the City capital budget for permanently-affordable housing.

Our communities are seeing record rent levels, the rise of evictions and homelessness, and high housing costs as a key driver of the City's affordability crisis. The City must deepen its investment in permanently affordable housing to protect tenants from displacement while providing new homeownership opportunities. Financing the production and preservation of truly affordable housing is one of the most powerful tools the City has to stabilize neighborhoods and keep generations of working families in their communities.

The “Homes Now” budget demand focuses on the following key programs:



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3291/3295 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Phone: (212)864-6200 Email:
info@cb9m.org

June 10, 2024

Hon. Eric Adams
Mayor of New York City
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Shaun Abreu
Council Member, District 7
New York City Council
250 Broadway, Suite 1775
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Adrienne E. Adams
NYC Council Speaker
165-38A Baisley Blvd., 2nd Floor
Jamaica, NY 11434

Dear Mayor Adams, Council Member Abreu and Council Speaker Adams,

Due to time constraints Manhattan Community Board No. 9's Executive Committee (with 11 members Present) acting on behalf of the full board unanimously approved the following LOS re: **Opposing Budget Cuts to Emma L Bowen Center.**

We are writing to express our strong support for the **Emma L. Bowen Community Service Center, particularly the Rainbow Clubhouse**, and to voice our opposition to the recent decision by the city's Office of Mental Health (OMH) to cease funding for this vital program effective September 30th.

Since its inception in 1987, the Rainbow Clubhouse has been a cornerstone of our community, providing indispensable services to adults diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illnesses. This work-ordered day rehabilitation program offers a safe and supportive environment where members are empowered to achieve their individual goals. The comprehensive services provided, including vocational support, educational assistance, wellness and recovery programs, and independent living skills, are crucial for the well-being and integration of these individuals into our society.

The abrupt and unexplained termination of funding for the Rainbow Clubhouse is not only unjust but also detrimental to the community it serves. With over 300 individuals enrolled, many of

Hon. Eric Adams
Hon. Shaun Abreu
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whom rely on the integrated services of the Bowen Center, the closure of this program would leave a significant void in our community's mental health support network.

The city's proposal to replace smaller clubhouses with larger ones, without providing evidence that this model is more effective, disregards the unique and personalized support that smaller clubhouses offer. For many members, the Rainbow Clubhouse is more than a service provider; it is a community and a lifeline. The notion that these individuals can simply transition to a new, larger facility undermines the trust and stability they have found in the current program.

Furthermore, the decision to entrust organizations like Fountain House and Phoenix House, which currently do not have a presence in Harlem, to open new locations raises serious concerns about the continuity and quality of care. The disruption caused by this abrupt change is likely to have severe negative consequences for the mental health and stability of the current clubhouse members.

We urge you to reconsider this decision and to extend funding for the Rainbow Clubhouse. The continuation of these services is critical not only for the individuals directly impacted but also for the broader community. The Emma L. Bowen Community Service Center plays an essential role in addressing social determinants of health, especially in communities of color like ours in CB9.

We stand with the Emma Bowen Community Service Center and the Rainbow Clubhouse and strongly advocate for the preservation and support of these essential services. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

If any further information is needed, please do not hesitate to contact myself and/or our District Manager, Eutha Prince at (212) 864-6200.

Sincerely,



Victor Edwards
Chair

cc: Hon. Brad Lander, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Cordell Cleare, New York State Senate
Hon. Daniel J. O'Donnell, Assembly Member
Hon. Inez Dickens, Assembly Member
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Yuseff Salaam, City Council Member
Mr. Zead Ramadan, Executive Director, West Harlem Development Corporation

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Hon. Shaun Abreu
Council Member, District 7
New York City Council
250 Broadway, Suite 1775
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Yusef Salaam
Council Member, District 9
163 Lenox Avenue
New York, NY 10026

Dear Mayor Adams, Council Speaker Adams, Council Member Abreu and Council Member Salaam

Due to time constraints Manhattan Community Board No. 9's Executive Committee (with 11 members Present) acting on behalf of the full board unanimously approved the following LOS re: **Opposing Budget Cuts to Emma L Bowen Center.**

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If any further information is needed, please do not hesitate to contact myself and/or our District Manager, Eutha Prince at (212) 864-6200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Victor Edwards", written in a cursive style.

Victor Edwards
Chair

cc: Hon. Brad Lander, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
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