



March 4th, 2025

Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez
Commissioner
NY Dept. Of Transportation,
55 Water Street, FL – 9
New York City, New York 10041

Hon. Edgar Pincar Jr.
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NY Dept. Of Transportation,
59 Maiden Lane, FL - 37
New York City, New York 10038

Dear Hon. Commissioner Rodriguez and Hon. Borough Commissioner Pinar Jr.,

At its regularly scheduled General Board Meeting held in hybrid on Thursday, February 20th, 2025, Manhattan Community Board No. 9 passed the following Reso Re: The installation of protected bike lanes on of West 155th Street between Broadway and Edgecombe Avenue by a vote of 27 in favor, 1 opposed and 3 abstentions.

Reso re: The installation of protected bike lanes on of West 155th Street between Broadway and Edgecombe Avenue

WHEREAS, the safety of all road users—cyclists, pedestrians, and motorists—is a critical priority for our community;

WHEREAS, West 155th Street is a vital corridor that currently has gaps in the existing bike lane network, limiting safe travel options for cyclists;

WHEREAS, the installation of protected bike lanes on West 155th Street between Broadway and Edgecombe Avenue, measuring a distance of only 1,671 feet, would help connect these gaps, creating a more cohesive and safe biking infrastructure;

WHEREAS, protected bike lanes have been shown to significantly reduce accidents and enhance safety for all users by providing dedicated space for cyclists, thereby reducing conflicts with motor vehicles and pedestrians;

WHEREAS, increasing access to safe cycling infrastructure encourages more residents to choose biking as a sustainable and healthy mode of transportation;

WHEREAS, the benefits of protected bike lanes extend beyond safety, contributing to reduced traffic congestion, lower emissions, and improved public health outcomes;

WHEREAS, the NYC Streets Plan requires the City of New York to install at least 50 miles of protected bike lanes in each year from 2023 to 2026 and a total of 250 miles in the five years from 2022 to 2026

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CB9 supports the installation of protected bike lanes on of West 155th Street between Broadway and Edgecombe Avenue;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the DOT prioritize the safety and connectivity of all road users and allocate necessary funding for the installation of the proposed protected bike lanes.

Passed UST 8-0 on 2/6/25

If you have any questions and/or further information is needed, please do not hesitate contacting me or District Manager, Eutha Prince, at the board office (212) 864-6200.

Sincerely,



Victor Edwards

Chair

cc: Honorable Eric Adams, Mayor
Honorable Brad Lander, NYC Comptroller
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Cordell Cleare, NYS Senator, 30th Senatorial District
Honorable Micah C. Lasher, NYS Assemblyman, 69th Assembly District
Honorable Jordan J.G. Wright, NYS Assembly Member, 70th Assembly District
Honorable Al Taylor, NYS Assemblyman, 71st Assembly District
Honorable Shaun Abreu, Member of the NYC Council, 7th Council District
Honorable Yusef Salaam, Member NYC Council, 9th Council District
Mr. Zead Ramadan, Executive Director, West Harlem Development Corp



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

Morningside Heights
Manhattanville
Hamilton Heights
Sugar Hill

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

March 7th, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Honorable Leticia James
Attorney General
Office of the New York State Attorney General
Albany, NY 11224-0341

Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Majority Leader Speaker
The New York State Senate
250 Broadway, Room 1930
New York, NY 10007

Honorable Carl E. Heastie
Speaker
The New York State Assembly
LOB 932
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Governor Hochul, Attorney General James, Majority Leader Speaker Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Heastie,

At its regularly scheduled General Board Meeting held in hybrid on Thursday, February 20th, 2025, Manhattan Community Board No. 9 passed the following Reso Re: HDFC Self-Determination, Preservation, and Affordability Act (S808/A2707) by vote of unanimous consent with 1 abstention.

HDFC Self-Determination, Preservation, and Affordability Act (S808/A2707)

WHEREAS cooperative housing development fund corporations (“HDFC”s) have provided a critical path to affordable homeownership, especially in Manhattan Community District 9 (“MCD9) by serving as homeownership opportunities for households earning either less than 120% of AMI or less than six times the monthly maintenance fees or common charges; and

WHEREAS most of these co-operatives were originally get multifamily residential buildings that had been rentals abandoned by their landlords and foreclosed on by the City due to unpaid property taxes or water bills, putting a strain on the City by both removing them from the tax rolls and by forcing the City to pay to manage and repair them; and

WHEREAS these co-operatives were often in poor condition, necessitating that the tenants-turned-shareholders invest significant amounts of their own money and effort into rehabilitating the buildings and apartments, helping to stabilize their blocks during some of the City's most difficult times; and

WHEREAS MCD9 9 has the highest concentration of HDFC cooperatives share units in all of New York City, with 6,275 units or apartments in 144 buildings, representing approximately 28,238 district 9 residents, and

WHEREAS HDFC cooperatives rely on the Division of Alternative Management ("DAMP") real estate tax cap, which "exempts" a portion of a building's assessed value from the real estate tax, keeping HDFC buildings financially viable and affordable for current and prospective homeowners by lowering the building's annual real estate taxes and thus the monthly maintenance fees charged to each apartment; and

WHEREAS the initial, time-limited regulatory restrictions that applied to HDFC cooperatives have long expired, placing each building at a critical crossroads to either remain in the HDFC program or convert to "market" rate cooperative housing; and

WHEREAS Manhattan Community Board 9 is deeply concerned at the potential loss of affordable homeownership opportunities posed by the conversion of HDFC co-ops to market rate co-ops that lack any income restrictions and opposes such conversions; and

WHEREAS an expiration of the DAMP tax cap in 2029 would bring severe financial hardship resulting in an exodus of HDFC cooperatives from the City's affordable housing stock and into "market rate" housing and the tax abatements provided to market-rate co-ops such as the Cooperative and Condominium Tax Abatement; and

WHEREAS in January 2025, the New York State bill S880/A2707, HDFC Self-Determination, Preservation, and Affordability Act (HDFC SPA Act), was introduced in both the NYS Senate and Assembly to prevent the loss of this important affordable homeownership, and

WHEREAS the **HDFC SPA Act** would replace the expiring DAMP tax cap with a tax abatement on the state level to incentive HDFCs to remain in their current corporate form, limiting the sale of their units to only households earning income under the existing income limits of 120% of AMI or six times the monthly common/maintenance charges and to continue to be a source of affordable homeownership; and

WHEREAS the HDFC SPA Act has additional social benefits, including that it also,

- Provides affordable homeownership for traditionally underserved communities, and
- Ensures HDFCs' long-term fiscal stability and avoids loss of homeownership, and
- Has full support of HDFC homeowners' community, and
- Expands eligibility for real estate tax benefit to all HDFCs, and

- Helps severely challenged HDFCs receive financial assistance, and
- Addresses uncertainty for HDFC homeowners and affirms their homeownership rights, dignity, and ability to govern themselves, and
- Allows low to moderate income families to build generational wealth,
- Stabilizes community neighborhoods and promotes civic pride; and
- Promotes basic housing fairness and justice by,
 - Respecting the HDFC homeowners' sacrifices and sweat equity, and
 - Acknowledging the City's various promises and commitments to HDFCs, and
 - Ensuring consistency with the treatment of all other private housing under NYS law.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Manhattan Community Board 9 calls on all NY State Senators, Assemblymembers, Attorney General Letitia James, Governor Kathy Hochul, and all other local and state elected officials **to pass** S880/A2707, the HDFC Self-Determination, Preservation, and Affordability Act (HDFC SPA Act); and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Manhattan Community Board 9 calls on New York State and New York City to examine further incentives for HDFCs to remain income-limited and not dissolve and reincorporate as market rate co-operatives.

If you have any questions and/or further information is needed, please do not hesitate contacting me or District Manager, Eutha Prince, at the board office (212) 864-6200.

Sincerely,



Victor Edwards
Chair

cc:

Honorable Eric Adams, Mayor
 Honorable Brad Lander, NYC Comptroller
 Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
 Honorable Cordell Cleare, NYS Senator, 30th Senatorial District
 Honorable Micah C. Lasher, NYS Assemblyman, 69th Assembly District
 Honorable Jordan J.G. Wright, NYS Assembly Member, 70th Assembly District
 Honorable Al Taylor, NYS Assemblyman, 71st Assembly District
 Honorable Shaun Abreu, Member of the NYC Council, 7th Council District
 Honorable Yusef Salaam, Member NYC Council, 9th Council District
 Mr. Zead Ramadan, Executive Director, West Harlem Development Corp



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

Morningside Heights
Manhattanville
Hamilton Heights
Sugar Hill

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

March 10th, 2025

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

Hon. Michelle Morse, MD, MPH
Deputy Commissioner
NYC Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene
42-09 28th Street
Queens, NY 11101

Dear Mayor Adams and Deputy Commissioner Morse,

At its regularly scheduled General Board Meeting held in hybrid on Thursday, February 20th, 2025, Manhattan Community Board No. 9 passed the following Reso Re: Resolution to Prioritize Mental Health Awareness and Address Contributing Social Determinants of Health by vote of unanimous consent with 31 members present.

Resolution to Prioritize Mental Health Awareness and Address Contributing Social Determinants of Health

Whereas mental health disorders affect nearly 1 in 4 adults in New York City annually, with 13% of adults suffering from depression, and the prevalence of mental health conditions continues to rise across all demographics, particularly in communities with limited resources;

Whereas early half of New York City teenagers report depressive symptoms, highlighting an alarming trend in youth mental health challenges, which can lead to long-term consequences if unaddressed;

Whereas untreated mental health conditions can lead to increased homelessness, unemployment, incarceration, and reliance on emergency services, putting additional strain on already overburdened city systems;

Whereas Rikers Island has become one of the largest psychiatric care providers in the country, with approximately 50% of its incarcerated population diagnosed with mental health conditions and 16% diagnosed with serious mental illnesses, reflecting a systemic failure to provide preventive and community-based mental health services (New York City Department of Correction, 2024);

Whereas individuals receiving mental health treatment at Rikers Island remain incarcerated for an average of 357 days—61% longer than the general population— indicating the need for comprehensive alternatives to incarceration and better access to treatment before individuals enter the criminal justice system (New York City Department of Correction, 2024);

Whereas Mayor Eric Adams has introduced a \$650 million, five-year plan to combat homelessness and provide critical mental health services, including the construction of a facility for homeless individuals with mental illness, expansion of “Safe Haven” beds, and the creation of housing options for runaway and homeless youth (Adams, 2025); ***Whereas*** the social determinants of health, including access to stable housing, environmental health, access to nutritious food, quality education, and economic opportunities, are deeply connected to mental health outcomes and must be addressed to achieve sustainable improvements (World Health Organization, 2022);

Whereas the West Harlem Development Corporation has provided funding to 12 local organizations focused on “whole person” wellness, offering a critical opportunity to address mental health challenges within our community;

Whereas the Health and Environment Committee has consistently prioritized mental health issues by hosting psychologists, social workers, counselors, and human service agencies at community forums to provide resources, share insights, and identify solutions;

Whereas the Children’s Single Point of Access program, which will be presented at the February 2 committee meeting, represents an essential step in ensuring timely mental health care for children and adolescents (New York City Department of Mental Health and Hygiene, 2025);

Be It Resolved that Community Board 9:

1. Endorses Mayor Eric Adams’ \$650 million plan to address homelessness and mental health and calls for expanded city and state funding to support its initiatives, including the construction of mental health facilities, Safe Haven beds, and youth housing options.

2. Advocates for systemic reforms to address the intersection of mental health and incarceration, including increasing access to community-based treatment programs and alternatives to incarceration for individuals with mental illnesses.
3. Calls on Policymakers to prioritize the social determinants of health—stable housing, environmental health, access to nutritious food, quality education, and economic opportunities—within all mental health policies and programs.
4. Encourages Collaboration with organizations like the West Harlem Development Corporation and other local stakeholders to implement and expand mental health programs that address challenges across all age groups.
5. Recommits to addressing youth mental health, specifically supporting programs like the Children’s Single Point of Access, to ensure timely and equitable mental health care for young people in our community.
6. Urges State Lawmakers to pass the Supportive Interventions Act and related legislation to strengthen New York’s ability to provide effective mental health care and support systems for vulnerable populations.
7. Supports continued public forums and outreach efforts by the Health and Environment Committee to educate community members, foster dialogue, and identify actionable solutions to improve mental health outcomes.
8. Requests Transparency and Accountability from city and state agencies on the progress and outcomes of mental health initiatives, ensuring that funding and resources are effectively utilized to benefit the community.

Further Resolved that this resolution be shared with Mayor Eric Adams, state and city legislators, local mental health organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure Community Board 9’s perspectives and priorities are represented in shaping mental health policy.

By: Health and Environment Committee, Community Board 9

References

Adams, E. (2025). State of the City Address. Retrieved from <https://www.nyc.gov>

New York City Department of Correction. (2024). Rikers Island Mental Health Statistics.

New York City Department of Mental Health and Hygiene. (2025). Children’s Single Point of Access program overview. Retrieved from <https://www.nyc.gov>

World Health Organization. (2022). Social determinants of health. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int>

If you have any questions and/or further information is needed, please do not hesitate contacting me or District Manager, Eutha Prince, at the board office (212) 864-6200.

Sincerely,

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

Victor Edwards
Chair

cc:

Honorable Eric Adams, Mayor
Honorable Brad Lander, NYC Comptroller
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Cordell Cleare, NYS Senator, 30th Senatorial District
Honorable Micah C. Lasher, NYS Assemblyman, 69th Assembly District
Honorable Jordan J.G. Wright, NYS Assembly Member, 70th Assembly District
Honorable Al Taylor, NYS Assemblyman, 71st Assembly District
Honorable Shaun Abreu, Member of the NYC Council, 7th Council District
Honorable Yusef Salaam, Member NYC Council, 9th Council District
Mr. Zead Ramadan, Executive Director, West Harlem Development Corp



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COMMUNITY BOARD 9
MANHATTAN

Morningside Heights
Manhattanville
Hamilton Heights
Sugar Hill

RESOLUTION RE:

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway Nomination and Corridor Management Plan Adoption

At its regularly scheduled General Board Meeting held in hybrid on Thursday, March 20, 2025, Manhattan Community Board No. 9 passed the following resolution re: **Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway Nomination and Corridor Management Plan Adoption** by unanimous consent with 30 members present:

WHEREAS, the historic qualities of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway, as described in the corridor management plan, and the surrounding areas have been appreciated and celebrated for over a century by the residents of New York State, as well as tourists, historians, artists, authors, and other visitors to the region; and it is this unique combination of the journeys of Harriet Tubman and those Freedom Seekers who traveled on the Underground Railroad that create the special sense of place that is vital in telling the New York story of the human desire for freedom and the historic sites they created during their journey to emancipation; and

WHEREAS, the Steering Committee of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway, composed of representatives of 22 municipalities along the proposed scenic byway route, committed to work cooperatively to protect and promote the historic, scenic, recreational, and economic well-being of the 544-mile Corridor throughout the state and agreed to pursue the nomination of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway Steering Committee, each of the 22 counties contributed to the development of this corridor management plan by forming local byway groups, encouraging public participation, and leading individual meetings of the Collaborative; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway, consisting of relatives of Harriet Tubman, descendants of Freedom Seekers, Harriet Tubman and/or Underground Railroad historians, representatives from state and federal agencies has strengthened the historic integrity, representation, and the principles of the corridor management plan; and

WHEREAS, in the process of developing this corridor management plan, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway Steering Committee has strengthened the bonds of inter-

municipal cooperation, and the involved entities envision further benefit through scenic byway designation including sustained collaborative progress, increased funding opportunities for recommendations identified in the plan, enhanced partnerships with agencies responsible for the stewardship of resources along and adjacent to the byway route, and an improved transportation experience that preserves, interprets, and promotes the corridor's intrinsic qualities and resources; and

WHEREAS, Seventeen and counting New York State Municipalities (Counties of Erie and Cayuga, Cities of Niagara Falls, Buffalo and Amsterdam, among others) have advanced their own respective resolutions in support of the proposed Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway; and

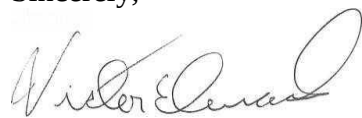
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 9 supports the designation of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway which includes programs for stewardship and enhancement of the scenic byway and guidance to manage future activities along its corridor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 9 confirms that they will not approve any requests for new off-premise outdoor advertising signs along the designated Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway route; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 9 will work in partnership with the HTURB internal planning team and other municipalities along the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway and local and regional stakeholders in order to support future Byway program development and collaborate with these interested entities to explore opportunities for cooperation and methods to advance the Scenic Byways.

If you have any questions and/or further information is needed, please do not hesitate contacting me or District Manager, Eutha Prince, at the board office (212) 864-6200.

Sincerely,



Victor Edwards
Chair

cc: Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez
Hon. Brad Lander, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Cordell Cleare, New York State Senate
Hon. Micah Lasher, Assembly Member
Hon. Jordan J.D. Wright, Assembly Member
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Shaun Abreu, City Council Member
Hon. Yusef Salaam, City Council Member

Mr. Zead Ramadan, Executive Director, West Harlem Development Corporation

Peter Dunleavy: Peter.Dunleavy@dot.ny.gov

Christine Colley: Christine.Colley@dot.ny.gov

Jianxin Dai: Jianxin.Dai@dot.ny.gov

Ally Degon: ally@discoverniagara.org

Cheryl Hargrove: cheryl@hargroveinternational.com

Nikita Jankowski: nikita@belesai.com

Sage: sage@urcnys.org