

COMMUNITY BOARD 7/MANHATTAN
NOVEMBER 2020 RESOLUTIONS

Steering Committee, Mark N. Diller, Chairperson

Resolutions Re:

1. **MCB7's priorities for the Fiscal Year 2022 NYC Expense Budget.**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** the priorities for the Fiscal Year 2022 NYC Expense Budget.

Committee: 16-4-0-0. Task Force Chairs: 2-1-0-0. Non-Committee Board members: 4-2-0-0.

2. **MCB7's priorities for the Fiscal Year 2022 NYC Capital Budget.**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** the priorities for the Fiscal Year 2022 NYC Capital Budget.

Committee: 16-1-0-0. Task Force Chairs: 1-2-0-0. Non-Committee Board members: 5-1-0-0.

3. **Request for immediate funding for:**

- i. additional devices and wi-fi access for remote learning for students in District 3 who need them (with an emphasis on laptops or chromebooks since tablets/iPads are difficult to use for older grades)
- ii. Funding for rapid Covid testing to be made more available throughout the District
- iii. Funding Senior Centers so they can safely re-open, meet appropriate cleaning regimens, and provide meals and services.

Committee: 15-0-0-0. Task Force Chairs: 2-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 5-0-0-0.

Preservation Committee, K Karpen and Michele Parker, Co-Chairpersons

The Committee will present the resolutions.

4. **Re: 1 West 67th Street, PH #901/905/1005, Hotel Des Artiste (Central Park West.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission extension of existing skylight, replacement of a solarium, and modifications to the existing parapet.**

5. **Re: 320 Amsterdam Avenue (West 75th Street.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a storefront replacement.**

6. **Re: 40 West 84th Street, PH (Columbus Avenue – Central Park West.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for penthouse alteration.**

Directed by the City Charter mandate that Community Boards review matters prior to consideration by the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the Preservation Committee reviews the "appropriateness" of proposed changes to individually designated landmarks as well as to properties listed within the Upper West Side's Historic Districts.

Transportation Committee, Andrew Albert and Howard Yaruss, Co-Chairpersons

7. **Re: Support for Senate Bill S7876 and Assembly Bill A9972, which would assign a "Pedestrian Safety Rating" for every motor vehicle model.**

Senate Bill S7876 and Assembly Bill A9972 would create a five-star pedestrian safety rating system for motor vehicles registered in NYS to be posted on the Department of Motor Vehicles' website.

While overall traffic deaths in the United States are falling, pedestrian and cyclist deaths are rising, and the proliferation of SUVs is partly responsible. SUVs are more likely to kill those outside the vehicle because they are heavier, their blunt front-end design inflicts greater upper body and head injuries, they create large forward blind zones for drivers, and drivers with a higher driving position tend to drive faster, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

Crash-test ratings warn car buyers of the relative risks to themselves and their passengers when choosing between car models, but they do not know how dangerous a car model may be for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The proposed rating system would take into account safety features that the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles determines relevant.

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan supports passage of Senate Bill S7876 and Assembly Bill A9972 by the New York State Legislature.

Bill text: <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2019/s7876>
and <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2019/a9972>

8. Re: Improving safety by "Daylighting" intersections within two blocks of a school, senior center or facility for the disabled.

Vehicles and other curbside obstructions adjacent to crosswalks impair the ability of pedestrians to see oncoming vehicles as well as the ability of drivers to see crossing children and dogs.

These visibility impairments have caused numerous pedestrian injuries and deaths.

The fear of being hit also diminishes the ability of seniors and children to move about the Upper West Side freely and independently.

Increased visibility helps everyone—drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians (particularly older and disabled pedestrians) — interact more safely.

The DOT recommends daylighting as a key safety measure.

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED THAT all intersections within a two-block radius of any school, senior center or facility for the disabled in Community District 7 be daylighted.

Business & Consumer Issues Committee, Linda Alexander and Christian Cordova, Co-Chairpersons

9. Re: New applications to the SLA for two-year liquor licenses.

BE IT IS RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** the following applications to the SLA:

153 Amsterdam Avenue (West 67th Street.)

Committee: 6-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 2-0-0-0.

286 Columbus Avenue. (West 74th Street.)

Committee: 6-0-1-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 2-0-0-0.

480 Amsterdam Avenue (West 83rd Street.)

Committee: 7-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 2-0-0-0

10. Re: 509 Amsterdam Avenue (West 85th Street) New York Beer Co LLC d/b/a Jacob's Pickles.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** the alteration application to add a bar at the cellar level., pending receipt of a revised application with new operating hours before the full board meeting of CB7 on November 4th, 2020.

Committee: 6-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 2-0-0-0.

Health & Human Services Committee, Catherine DeLazzero and Sheldon Fine, Co-Chairpersons

11. Re: Recommendations for Addressing Food Insecurity and Improving Equity and Access

This resolution is based on the following information and facts:

1. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food security as “the ability of all people at all times to access enough food for an active and healthy life.” According to the USDA, food security

- requires four conditions: “food must be available, each person must have access to it, the food utilized must fulfill nutritional requirements, and there needs to be stability in food access and availability.”ⁱⁱ In contrast, those who are food insecure do not have the economic resources to access “adequate” food.ⁱⁱ
2. Prior to the pandemic, the NYS Department of Health (2016) reported an increase in food insecurity as well as racial and other disparities among New York residents. The “prevalence of reported food insecurity is significantly higher among” Hispanic (~41%) and Black non-Hispanic adults (~32%) than among white non-Hispanic adults (~17%); females (~26%) than males (~21%); those with less than a high school education (~43%) than those who graduated from college (~12%); and those with a disability (~40%) than those without (~19%).ⁱⁱⁱ The NYS DoH also reported “a statistically significant increase in the prevalence of reported food security from 2013 (70.4%) to 2016 (76.4%).”^{iv}
 3. Prior to the pandemic, 10% of Community District 7 residents were considered food insecure.^v
 4. Since March of 2020, the number of NYC residents considered food insecure has increased from 1.2 to 2 million.^{vi} Those most affected include residents living below the federal poverty level, immigrants, and children who rely on school meals^{vii} (more than one in four children^{viii}).
 5. The impacts of the pandemic to the NYC food system have been severe. In addition to reduced access to high quality, nutritious, and sufficient food, the food workforce has been reduced by two thirds and 1,000+ restaurants and food retail outlets have closed.^{ix}
 6. Several factors have exacerbated NYC’s food system crisis, which include pre-existing systematic challenges; insufficient preparation in terms of food policies and programs; and lack of coordination in food distribution and communication about existing resources.^x

In response to NYC’s food system crisis, researchers from the Hunter College NYC Food Policy Center, The Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, and The CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute produced “research-based recommendations for policies and programs that support food security, retail, quality, and the food workforce as the COVID-19 crisis continues to unfold” in New York City. These are outlined in the report of their research findings, [NY Food 20/20](#),^{xi} and include the following steps:

1. *Strengthen and expand the Mayor’s Office of Food Policy. The Office of Food Policy should exercise the same overarching, inter-agency power that the Food Czar team exercised. With clear authority, adequate funding, and staff who have deep understanding of food programs and policies, NYC could more nimbly respond to future crises.*
2. *For users, create and maintain a public dataset of all food pantries, soup kitchens, and other emergency food resources that includes up to date information on openings, closings, and hours of operation. NYC should provide simple technologies for emergency food providers to easily update their status.*
3. *Expand economic stimulus support, focusing on small food businesses that women, people of color, and immigrants own and operate.*
4. *Monitor retail, institutional food, and emergency food programs’ impact on diet quality and address nutrition-related inequities which occur because of income and race.*
5. *Develop food plans for future emergencies that include concrete steps to support high quality diets.*
6. *Ensure that all local, state, and federal benefit programs for workers are accessible to all food workers, especially those with the lowest pay and least benefits.*

Directors of the food policy centers that produced the report along with local food providers attended Community Board 7 Manhattan’s Health and Human Services Committee meeting on October 27, 2020.^{xii} From the discussion, some additional needs were identified, and include

- continued financial support and food access for all children and youth who qualify for free and reduced price lunch (or whatever official measures are used to determine need);

- improved access to administrative offices that provide benefits (such as SNAP);
 - accessible communications on available resources to speakers of languages other than English, those with disabilities, those without internet access, and those who do not read;
 - Improved publicizing of [DonateNYC](#)^{xiii} which connects businesses with food to donate to local organizations that need it.
 - improved access to food appropriate for specific populations (e.g., usable containers for people with disabilities, diabetic-friendly food, Kosher and Halal food);
 - adequate interagency plans for providing appropriate food to those discharged from hospitals and healthcare facilities; and protection for workers from crime (i.e. robberies) that prevent food outlets from delivering food, especially for those who cannot leave their homes, as well as increasing comprehensive services and economic opportunities for community residents who may be at risk of committing crimes; and
 - inclusion of restaurants in plans to improve food equity and access to New Yorkers during this crisis.
- This list is not intended to be representative or comprehensive.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT COMMUNITY BOARD 7/ MANHATTAN calls on the Mayor to create a process and plan for implementing the recommendations of the “NY Food 20/20” report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT COMMUNITY BOARD 7/ MANHATTAN calls on the Mayor to immediately prioritize the first recommendation - to strengthen and expand the Mayor’s Office of Food Policy - since this Office would oversee efforts to improve NYC’s complex food system and requires authority and funding in order to do so effectively and for the long term.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT COMMUNITY BOARD 7/ MANHATTAN calls on the Mayor and our elected City and State representatives to work with the Mayor’s Office of Food Policy and the appropriate government agencies to develop legislation to address additional identified needs that ensure food security, equity, and access for all residents of New York City.

Committee: Non-Committee Board Members: 3-0-0-0.

ⁱ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/international-markets-us-trade/global-food-security/questions-answers/#security>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/84467/err-235.pdf?v=9446>

ⁱⁱⁱ https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/brfss/reports/docs/1810_food_security.pdf

^{iv} https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/brfss/reports/docs/1810_food_security.pdf

^v <https://www.nycfoodpolicy.org/foodscape-upper-west-side/>

^{vi} <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/05/21/860312565/in-new-york-city-2-million-residents-face-food-insecurity-officials-say>

^{vii} <https://www.cunyrurbanfoodpolicy.org/news/2020/10/5/new-york-food-2020-vision-research-and-recommendations-during-covid-19-and-beyond>

^{viii} <https://www.cityharvest.org/facts-about-hunger/>

^{ix} <https://www.cunyrurbanfoodpolicy.org/news/2020/10/5/new-york-food-2020-vision-research-and-recommendations-during-covid-19-and-beyond>

^x <https://www.cunyrurbanfoodpolicy.org/news/2020/10/5/new-york-food-2020-vision-research-and-recommendations-during-covid-19-and-beyond>

^{xi} <https://www.cunyrurbanfoodpolicy.org/news/2020/10/5/new-york-food-2020-vision-research-and-recommendations-during-covid-19-and-beyond>

^{xii} Stephanie Sears-Moshier, West Side Campaign Against Hunger; Susan Matloff-Nieves, Goddard Riverside; Rev. K Karpen, St Paul & St Andrew United Methodist Church; Charles Platkin, Hunter College New York City Food Policy Center; and Pamela Koch, Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, Program in Nutrition, Teachers College. A video of the meeting can be accessed through CB7’s YouTube channel, and meeting minutes on CB7’s website.

^{xiii} [https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/donate/site/DonateFood/About Resolution – CB7 Youth, Education & Libraries Committee](https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/donate/site/DonateFood/About%20Resolution%20-%20CB7%20Youth,%20Education%20&%20Libraries%20Committee)

Youth, Education and Libraries Committee, Steven Brown and Blanche Lawton, Co-Chairpersons

12. Re: Support for Involving Principals in Education Policies & Pandemic Response.

This resolution is based on the following facts:

The opening of the largest school system in the country for 2020-21 school year during the Covid pandemic has been characterized as belated, disorganized, ill-considered and lacking in transparency and consideration for principals, teachers, parents and children. Plagued with several delays, the Department of Education (DoE) offered and continues to offer multiple inconsistent and contradictory communications and directives from the Chancellor and the Mayor, leading to confusion and chaos among parents and guardians, students, faculty, staff and administrators.

Too often, directives concerning re-opening schools, planning, and implementation of in-person, remote, and hybrid learning were made, and then scrapped and new directives announced, all without direct and meaningful consultation with the principals charged with implementing such directives. Major policy changes and decisions were made only days before the opening of schools and then handed to principals and administrators to make sense of them. Given the DoE decision making process and that leadership coordinated only with the UFT, the CSA, the New York City Principals' union, took the unprecedented step of adopting a no confidence vote and request for state intervention. The DoE continues to make decisions without consulting the school leaders responsible for implementing those decisions.

Our principals accept responsibility for the students in their charge, and are accountable to the students and their families, faculty, staff and administrators in their schools. As leaders in their schools, they work to ensure a safe physical environment as well as an appropriate, productive and rigorous learning experience regardless of whether in-person, online or a hybrid.

Principals are acutely aware of how various proposals for re-opening schools as well as adapting to remote platforms will and do affect their communities, and which choices would make the most sense to the constituencies to whom they respond and serve.

The principals have been left out of the decision making process, but are then left to implement those decisions, too often given unrealistic timelines and mandates without proper resources and budgets. These principals are left to solve the real-world problems caused by those policies and pandemic responses.

It is essential that the voice of the principals of our schools be meaningfully included in all aspects of decisions including in-person, remote, and hybrid learning policies as well as the platforms and protocols for translating curriculum and instruction onto various remote learning platforms. In particular, principals have unique insights into the technology needs of children and youth in a time where technology is necessary for access to education and services.

Therefore, Community Board 7/Manhattan calls on the Mayor, the Chancellor and all senior officials of the Department of Education to create a more transparent process for the community and establish a robust and meaningful dialogue with principals in which they are part of the decision making process. It should include mechanisms for consultation with and learning from principals of our public schools before making decisions regarding re-opening schools and other pandemic response, and for accountability to the principals in addressing the consequences of the implementation of such decisions and policies.

Community Board 7/Manhattan further calls on the Department of Education and the Mayor to work with principals to develop a plan for immediately providing safe and quality Wi-Fi and computers to each child who lacks technology access immediately (i.e. not merely one per household or family), and accessible technical staff to assist families struggling with technology use.

Committee Vote: 10-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 2-0-0-0.