



# COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
1664 PARK AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NY 10035  
TEL: 212-831-8929  
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www.cb11m.org

Nilsa Orama  
Chair

Angel D. Mescaín  
District Manager

December 1, 2021

Hon. Bill De Blasio  
Mayor  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dave A. Chokshi, MD, MSc  
Commissioner  
Department of Health & Mental Hygiene  
42-09 28th Street  
Long Island City, NY 11101

**Re: Supervised Injection Center in East Harlem**

Dear Mayor De Blasio and Commissioner Choksi,

I was surprised and disappointed to learn today that the City has decided to open a safe injection facility in Community District 11 without consultation with our board despite our resolution of March 2021 calling for a moratorium on the siting on any drug treatment facilities in our community and requiring consultation with the board for any addition or expansion of such services.

On October 18, 2021, the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene at its request presented to our Human Services Committee on the topic of harm reduction and overdose prevention and was repeatedly evasive about whether a decision had been made to site a safe injection facility in our community. Subsequently, on a call with our office, again at the agency's request, a representative of the agency repeatedly denied whether it had been determined that a safe injection site would indeed be located in our district despite being questioned about a recent grand opening event held at the location that would house the new safe injection facility.

As the municipal agency representing the community of East Harlem, it is unacceptable that DoHMH would not be transparent in its intention and decision to open this facility in our community. The agency was dishonest with this board and with our staff when asked directly whether this facility would indeed be sited in this district. The agency has shown blatant disregard and disrespect for this board and the concerns of the community it represents.

I request a meeting with the Mayor's Office and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to discuss this matter and our related concerns.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [chair@cb11m.org](mailto:chair@cb11m.org).

Sincerely,



Nilsa Orama  
Chair

Enclosure (1)

cc: Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor-Elect, New York City  
Hon. Bill Perkins, New York City Council  
Hon. Diana Ayala, New York City Council  
Hon. Ben Kallos, New York City Council  
Hon. Keith Powers, New York City Council  
Hon. Mark Levine, New York City Council  
Hon. Robert Rodriguez, New York State Assembly  
Hon. Jose Serrano, New York State Senate  
Hon. Inez Dickens, New York State Assembly  
Hon. Cordell Cleare, New York State Senate  
Kristin Richardson Jordan, Councilmember-Elect, New York City  
Mary T. Bassett, M.D., M.P.H., New York State Department of Health  
Xavier Santiago, CB11  
Ny Whitaker, CB11  
Judith Febbraro, CB11



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## RESOLUTION

Date: March 23, 2021  
Committee: Human Services  
Vote: In Favor: 24; Opposed: 4; Abstentions: 1; Present not Voting: 6  
Re: **Moratorium on the siting of any new drug rehabilitation, chemical dependency, or treatment centers within Manhattan Community District 11**

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WHEREAS Manhattan Community Board 11 (hereinafter "CB11M"), whose primary mission is to advise elected officials and government agencies and its Human Services Committee which is tasked with addressing matters impacting the health, quality of life, and welfare of the district - encompassing East Harlem, Harlem, Randall's Island and Ward's Island - and is experiencing a global pandemic which has disproportionately resulted in the tragic loss of Black and Brown residents of [our community](#)<sup>1</sup> and in every corner of our city, state and country;

WHEREAS the siting of drug rehabilitation, chemical dependency, or treatment centers across our district is often done with little or no notice to our community;

WHEREAS there is an oversaturation of substance abuse and addiction services located in Manhattan Community District 11, as reflected in public records which show our community hosts 15.4% of the service capacity for New York City but only has 4.1% of the need for these services<sup>2</sup>;

WHEREAS 82% of the those currently receiving services within Community District 11 reside outside of this district<sup>3</sup>;

WHEREAS, CB11M recognizes that the COVID-19 public health crisis is not only amplifying but also exacerbating pre-existing racial and economic inequities, disproportionately affecting lower-income communities of color, in terms of infection rates, death rates, and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/neon/programs/covid-neighborhoods.page>

<sup>2</sup> [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OoyebrJ7zj3sl63seINdoIjnZDtOBy9KT7\\_ZZ6w6GkA/edit#gid=959016392](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OoyebrJ7zj3sl63seINdoIjnZDtOBy9KT7_ZZ6w6GkA/edit#gid=959016392)

<sup>3</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ID-1tGmo0AMRWSvTKfwWGosbqDy7t079/view>

financial hardship for which the consequences of the COVID-19 public health crisis include high levels of unemployment, unseen since the Great Depression, which leads to increased housing instability and may elevate chemical dependency for those with a previous history<sup>4</sup>;

WHEREAS the 1989 City Charter (Section 203) required that the New York City Planning Commission “to adopt criteria to further the fair distribution of the burdens and benefits associated with city facilities, consistent with community needs for services and efficient and cost-effective delivery of services and with due regard for the social and economic impacts of such facilities upon the areas surrounding the sites”<sup>5</sup>; and

WHEREAS CB11 maintains that it is time for a fair share model to be made a priority of our city and state agencies as well as those elected to represent in government, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that Community Board 11 calls upon the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) and other regulatory agencies that have oversight over the above-mentioned programs, to:

1. implement an immediate moratorium on the siting of any NEW drug rehabilitation, chemical dependency, or treatment centers to be located within Manhattan Community District 11 for the next twelve (12) months;
2. provide a comprehensive list of all current OASAS-authorized drug rehabilitation, chemical dependency, or treatment centers located within Manhattan Community District 11, and provide where possible, primary contacts of providers, names of owner, landlords, authorizers, funders/donors, subsidiaries, investors, providers, partners, services delivery methods, outcomes and metrics for determination of success, funding sources, medical or other professional certifications and proof of standing, capacity and current demographics of clients served, and any necessary and pertinent information related to the execution of Community Board 11’s Charter mandated role and responsibilities;
3. require all OASAS-authorized drug rehabilitation, chemical dependency, and treatment centers, to come before CB11M no later than 120 days prior to all reauthorizations and/or expansion of services or service capacity.

Sincerely,



Nilsa Orama  
Chair

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<sup>4</sup> Source of data is OASAS per Yoni Piolet request in 2019

<sup>5</sup> [https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/about/publications/fair\\_share\\_guide.pdf](https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/about/publications/fair_share_guide.pdf)

cc: Hon. Governor Andrew Cuomo (via email)  
Hon. Jose M. Serrano, New York State Senate (via email)  
Hon. Brian Benjamin, New York State Senate (via email)  
Hon. Robert Rodriguez, New York State Assembly (via email)  
Hon. Inez Dickens, New York State Assembly (via email)  
Hon. Attorney General Letitia James (via email)  
Hon. Bill Perkins, New York City Council (via email)  
Hon. Diana Ayala, New York City Council (via email)  
Hon. Keith Powers, New York City Council (via email)  
Hon. Ben Kallos, New York City Council (via email)  
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President (via email)  
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, U.S House of Representatives (via email)  
Hon. Carolyn B. Maloney US House of Representatives (via email)  
Hon. Jumaane Williams, New York City Public Advocate (via email)  
Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker, New York City Council (via email)  
Hon. Scott Stringer, New York City Comptroller (via email)  
Zoraida Diaz, Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (via email)  
Ny Whitaker, Community Board 11  
Judith Febbraro, Community Board 11