



December 18, 2020

Letter of Support for a CB11 Moratorium on Additional or Expanded Substance Use Programs in East Harlem

The Greater Harlem Coalition (GHC) is a grassroots alliance of more than 70 Harlem and East Harlem block associations, tenant associations, small businesses, faith-based organizations, and community groups, who have united in support of the safety and wellbeing of all Harlem and East Harlem residents through public action, policy advocacy, and community initiatives. On behalf of the greater Harlem community, GHC advocates for the reduction of substance use programs and other facilities related to addiction, mental health, and homelessness.

GHC believes government and private treatment providers have a responsibility to provide vulnerable New Yorkers with effective, small-scale, addiction rehabilitation, mental health, and homelessness services, located in all New York neighborhoods to serve the local population in need. We have adopted this position based on the data that proves how large-scale programs have been detrimental to the safety and quality of life of Harlem residents. In particular, the evidence shows how the daily presence of illegal drug dealers on our streets is driven by the concentrated number of vulnerable patients who attend the disproportionately large outpatient substance use programs in our community.

As a diverse community of friends, neighbors, business entrepreneurs, and believers, we are committed to the safety, health, and well-being of all residents, small business owners, guests, and visitors to East Harlem. Because of this, the Greater Harlem Coalition strongly supports CB11's resolution regarding an immediate moratorium on new or expanded chemical dependency treatment programs in our community, a 20% reduction in OASAS certified opioid treatment capacities, and for a fair share of harm reduction facilities to be located in each district where there is a need. Quite simply, other New York neighborhoods have to take on their fair share of these programs and CB11 needs relief from the disproportionate burden that it has struggled under.

- The Greater Harlem Coalition