

Alida Camp  
Chair

Will Brightbill  
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620  
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106  
(212) 758-4340  
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)  
www.cb8m.com - Website  
info@cb8m.com - E-Mail

**The City of New York**  
**Community Board 8 Manhattan**  
**Women & Families Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 1, 2020 - 6:30PM**  
*This meeting was conducted remotely via Zoom*

*Please note: The resolutions contained in the committee minutes are recommendations submitted by the committee chair to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolutions are discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.*

**Minutes**

**Present:** Gayle Baron, Peggy Price, Alida Camp, Lori Bores, Saundrea Coleman, Rebecca Dangoor, Billy Freeland, Peter Patch, Tricia Shimamura.

**Resolutions for Approval:**

**Item 1: Childcare Expansion (unanimous)**

This meeting was called to order at

**1. The Urgent Need for Child Care**

The CB8 Women & Families Committee welcomed a stellar group of elected and City officials to discuss the urgent need for safe, affordable childcare—and how the Mayor’s new Learning Bridges program could address that need.

Guest speakers included Council Members Ben Kallos and Keith Powers, as well as City officials, Susan Haskell, deputy commissioner, Youth Services, NYC Department of Youth & Community Development, Shanna Midelton, associate director, Intergovernmental & Community Boards, Jennifer Geiling, deputy director, Policy & Partnerships, Mayor’s Office of Contract Services, Elizabeth Williams, director, data analytics, NYC Department of Education, and Molly Reckson, assistant director, Social Services, Office of Management & Budget.

The meeting largely focused on the City’s new Learning Bridges, a program begun in September, which provides free care for children in 3-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade in days they do not attend school. Eventually, Learning Bridges is expected to accommodate up to 100,000 children, who are participating in the blended learning option. That form of education involves attending school some days and learning remotely on others. Students are given priority to participate in Learning Bridges if their parents are low income parents or essential workers, or if the children are in individualized education programs (IEPs).

According to City officials, the CB8 district so far has only one such Learning Bridges facility, which is located at Stanley Isaacs and can accommodate up to 60 students.

City officials did not have data on the number of CB8 families who had applied for Learning Bridges, but promised to research that figure and report back to CB8.

During the Q&A portion of the meeting, attendees stressed the need for additional facilities for Learning Bridges in CB8. Citing day care costs that can run up to \$50,000 a year, members also called for

affordable care for children younger than age three, and for childcare facilities for families of moderate income. As CB8 members pointed out, families of moderate means typically cannot afford the often-exorbitant costs of childcare on the UES and may be forced to leave the City.

## **RESOLUTION**

CB8 members unanimously passed the following resolution:

**WHEREAS** the coronavirus pandemic has forced the closure of some childcare facilities that parents had relied on to enable them to work; and,

**WHEREAS** the school year's highly unusual structure of blended in-school and remote learning, along with a remote-only option, has challenged families' ability to plan when their children will need day care; and,

**WHEREAS** Mayor de Blasio has created a Learning Bridges program intended to provide facilities for up to 100,000 children enrolled in blended-learning on days when these children are not in school; and,

**WHEREAS** the CB8M district so far has a Learning Bridges facility that can accommodate only up to 60 children, despite a much higher need for affordable day care in this district: and,

**WHEREAS** working parents need safe, affordable care for children younger than age three; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CB8M urges Mayor de Blasio to greatly expand the childcare facilities in CB8M that are part of the Learning Bridges childcare program.

**BE IT FURTHER** resolved that CB8M believes the City should expand Learning Bridges—or create another program that accommodates children younger than age three, as well as children from middle, as well as low, income families.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that CB8M urges the City to undertake outreach to building owners and developers to see if they can provide space in their buildings for the Learning Bridges program or for another form of safe, affordable day care for children.

### **VOTE: 9-0-0**

**In favor:** Gayle Baron, Lori Bores, Alida Camp, Saundra Coleman, Rebecca Dangoor, Billy Freeland, Peter Patch, Peggy Price, Tricia Shimamura.

**P. Gayle Baron and Margaret Price, Co-Chairs**