

Russell Squire  
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**

January 22, 2021

Honorable Bill de Blasio  
Mayor of the City of New York  
City Hall  
New York, New York 10007

Rod Jones  
Executive Director  
Goddard Riverside Community Center  
593 Columbus Avenue  
New York, NY 10024

**RE: Goddard Riverside Safe Haven, 419 East 91<sup>st</sup> Street**

Dear Mayor de Blasio and Dr. Jones,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on January 20, 2021, the board **APPROVED** the following resolution by a vote of 46 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention, and 0 not voting for cause.

**WHEREAS**, Goddard Riverside has been a pioneer of homeless services since 1934, and has performed homeless outreach throughout NYC, including the Upper East Side;

**WHEREAS**, Goddard Riverside has earned a reputation both as an excellent social service provider and a trusted and responsive neighbor throughout the areas of New York City where it operates;

**WHEREAS**, Goddard Riverside proposed a plan to build a 7-story, Safe Haven at 419 East 91<sup>st</sup> Street which would open in January of 2022;

**WHEREAS**, Goddard Riverside has informed Community Board 8 Manhattan that the building that will house the Safe Haven is as-of-right, and Goddard Riverside has not proposed or asked approval for any variances, special permits, or other zoning changes;

**WHEREAS**, there are currently homeless New Yorkers living on the streets in Manhattan Community District 8;

**WHEREAS**, homeless people often prefer to remain on the street rather than going to a shelter or other facility in another part of New York City;

**WHEREAS**, The Safe Haven will house 88 of the most vulnerable men and women experiencing homelessness, primarily from the Upper East Side and from other areas of New York City as well;

**WHEREAS**, The Safe Haven will provide on-site social, health and recreational support services, which Goddard Riverside has extensive experience providing, to pave a path to permanent housing;

**WHEREAS**, the Safe Haven will have a roof-deck for recreational activities and will be pet-friendly;

**WHEREAS**, Goddard will provide 24/7 indoor security, as well as 12-hour outdoor security;

**WHEREAS**, Goddard promises to work with Community Board 8 Manhattan, Asphalt Green, the neighboring schools, and neighbors to ensure security during key hours;

**WHEREAS**, Goddard will form a “Community Advisory Board” with Community Board representatives and other stakeholders to ensure open and ongoing communication;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, Community Board 8 Manhattan **APPROVES** Goddard Riverside’s plan to open a Safe Haven at 419 East 91 Street;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Community Board 8 Manhattan requests that Goddard Riverside’s Safe Haven will accept appropriate homeless men and women living on Roosevelt Island into their Safe Haven;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, this resolution does not address any variances, special permits, or zoning changes that may be necessary for the proposed Safe Haven, and if any such variances, special permits, or zoning changes are proposed, they will be addressed by Community Board 8 Manhattan in the future.

Please advise us on any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

*Russell Squire*

Russell Squire  
Chair

*Rebecca Dangoor, Wilma Johnson, + Barbara Rudder*

Rebecca Dangoor and Barbara Rudder  
Co-Chairs, Health, Seniors and Social Services Committee

cc:

Honorable Steven Banks, Commissioner, New York City Department of Social Services  
Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Representative  
Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District  
Honorable Jose M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District  
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District  
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Honorable Robert Rodriguez, NYS Assembly Member, 68<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5<sup>th</sup> Council District  
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4<sup>th</sup> Council District