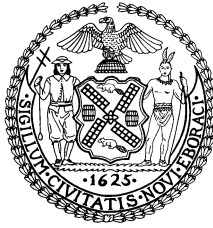


Russell Squire
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee
Wednesday, January 13, 2021 - 6:30 PM
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: Lori Bores, Taína Borrero, Meryl Brodsky*, Alida Camp, Brian Correia, Rebecca Dangoor, Billy Freeland, Wilma Johnson, May Malik, Valerie Mason, Greg Morris, Peter Patch, Ellen Polivy*, Barbara Rudder, Tricia Shimamura, Cos Spagnoletti, Russell Squire, Lynne Strong-Shinozaki

* Public Member

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM.

Resolution for Approval: Item 1

Item 1 - Presentation by Goddard Riverside and the NYC Department of Homeless Services regarding a proposed Safe Haven at 419 E. 91st Street (Between First & York Aves)

Prior to the presentation by Goddard Riverside, State Senator Liz Krueger, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, and City Councilmember Ben Kallos all spoke in favor of the project.

Roderick Jones, Executive Director of Goddard Riverside, began the presentation by stating the organization's mission: "We work every day for a fair and just society where all people have the opportunity to make choices that lead to better lives for themselves and their families." Therefore, Goddard focuses on self-determination. He described that Goddard's NYC heritage dates back to the 1850s and they have been serving the Upper West Side since 1934. Goddard's roots are in the settlement house movement, and they are a pioneer of homeless services. Today, Goddard serves more than 20,000 individuals across the City each year, including the Upper East Side. While headquartered on the UWS, they have 22 locations across Manhattan and 1 in Queens. Goddard provides services across the entire lifespan. Goddard's work is both to deliver services as well as advocacy. They have five core areas they work in: preparing children and youth for success, enriching the lives of older adults, promoting behavioral health and wellness, fighting homelessness and supporting housing for all, and strengthening families and communities.

Roberta Solomon, Deputy Executive Director of Adult and Community Development, took over the presentation to explain their continuum of services for those experiencing homelessness including multiple mental health programs, job training, and community integration. Goddard does the homeless outreach in Manhattan along with two partner agencies. They operate 24/7 365 days a year and have the largest catchment area in the borough of Manhattan.

Kimberly Wing, Associate Deputy Executive Director of Social Services for Supportive and Transitional Housing, continued the presentation. Currently, Goddard has four permanent supportive housing sites that serve 421 tenants and offer a wide range of support services. She stated that in out of the 210 caseload, 190 individuals were placed in permanent or transitional housing in 2020. For the Upper East Side, 39 individuals were placed in permanent or transitional housing out of caseload of 50 in 2020. Ms. Wing then described what a Safe Haven is. It provides an important step to the people who are chronically homeless. Safe Haven moves people off of the street, provides on-site social services, counseling, support, health, wellness, and recreation, and provides a path to permanent housing. There is a low threshold and people are not required to leave at any time. Safe Havens are distinct from shelters in a number of ways, most significantly in the comprehensiveness of the services they provide. The Safe Haven on East 91st will be Goddard's second Safe Haven. It will be an 88 bed, purpose-built site. It will serve male and female residents from the UES and other NYC neighborhoods. There will be private space, lockers for each resident, and a rooftop recreation area. The Safe Haven will provide both meals and social services. Pets are permitted. Goddard will work with the nearby schools, Asphalt Green, and the community at large to ensure outdoor security will take place during the appropriate times. The projected opening is in January of 2022.

Following the conclusion of the presentation, the meeting held a Q&A session with the three doctors. In addition to the three speakers from Goddard Riverside's presentation, Larry Wood (Director of Organizing at Goddard), Leilani Irvin (Manhattan Borough Director at the Department of Social Services), and Shane Cox (Program Administrator at the Street Homeless Solutions Division of the Department of Homeless Services) also helped answer questions.

The committee passed the following resolution:

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

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 an as- of- right 7-story, Safe Haven at 419 East 91st Street which that would open in January of 2022;

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; and

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; and

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, and;

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

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; and

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.

PASSED by a vote of 16-0-0

In Favor:

Bores, Borrero, Brodsky*, Camp, Correia, Dangoor, Freeland, Johnson, Malik, Morris, Polivy*, Rudder, Shimamura, Spagnoletti, Squire, Strong-Shinozaki

Item 2 – Old Business

Governor Andrew Cuomo signed the “Contact Tracing Confidentially Act” into law on December 23rd, 2020.

Item 3 – New Business

The Committee discussed how to address the COVID-19 vaccines in a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Rebecca Dangoor, Wilma Johnson, and Barbara Rudder, Co-Chairs