



Diane Collier
Chairperson

Angel D. Mescaïn
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
1664 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10035
TEL: (212) 831-8929/30
FAX: (212) 369-3571
www.cb11m.org

November 23, 2015

Honorable Gale Brewer
Manhattan Borough President
1 Centre Street
19th Floor
New York, NY
10007

RE: Support for the work, recommendations and goal of New York State's 2015 Blueprint's End the Epidemic Task Force, and to call on other community boards and elected officials to incorporate these recommendations into their annual Statement of District Needs.

Dear Borough President Brewer,

Community Board 11 strongly supports the goal of New York State's 2015 Blueprint to end the epidemic of HIV/AIDS in New York State by 2020. Governor Cuomo has set forth a three point plan to achieve this goal, and he has appointed an Ending the Epidemic Task Force to develop recommendations in order to reach this target. The Task Force has reviewed hundreds of recommendations and developed a concise series of steps to dramatically reduce the number of new cases of HIV/AIDS and prevent new infections.

These recommendations could especially benefit East Harlem, as HIV is the sixth most common cause of death in our community, as opposed to the tenth leading cause city-wide. Sex education is needed, as only 27 percent of East Harlem adults who have more than one sex partner used a condom during their last sexual encounter, as opposed to the NYC average of 38 percent. Sixteen percent of all premature deaths in East Harlem are HIV-related, which results in an annual loss of almost 2,000 life years. This data is sourced from the 2015 and 2006 NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DOHMH) Community Health Profile for East Harlem.

In addition to creating healthier communities, reducing the number of HIV/AIDS cases will also have great economic benefits. According to the Ending the Epidemic Blueprint, "achieving the goal of reducing new HIV infections from 3,000 to 750 per year by the end of 2020 would result in medical cost savings of \$804.4 million from averting 2,250 HIV infections."

Community Board 11 supports the work that the Task Force has completed thus far, and we strongly support the thoughtful and thorough recommendations they have developed. We now call on other community boards and elected officials to support the work and recommendations, and to include these recommendations in their annual Statement of District Needs documents.

If there are further details we can provide, our Assistant District Manager, Mia Brezin, can be reached at 212-831-8929.

Thank you for your consideration of our letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Collier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Diane Collier
Chairperson
Community Board 11

cc: Hon. Melissa Mark Viverito, Speaker, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Inez Dickens, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Jose M. Serrano, New York State Senate (via email)
Hon. Robert J. Rodriguez, New York State Assembly (via email)
Governor Andrew Cuomo (via mail)
Charles King, CEO, Housing Works (via mail)
Guthrie Birkhead, Deputy Commissioner, NYSDOH (via mail)
Jewel Jones, CB11 Health Committee Chair