



COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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

Nilsa Orama
Chair

Angel D. Mescaín
District Manager

March 30, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Gov. Cuomo:

As you are aware, Community Boards of New York City serve as a voice for those least represented in our society. Community Board 11 comprising the neighborhood of East Harlem is a multi-cultural and ethnically diverse community predominantly representing people of color. Often, these neighborhoods are most impacted by over policing and subsequent incarceration, which has further contributed to the disproportionate barriers facing our constituency. In 2019, the passage of the Bail Reform Law removed one of those barriers for the community.

Unfortunately, the recent uptick in the media coverage regarding the impact of this new law and all information and misinformation was brought to our attention. With sensitive issues such as these, the community board takes its role and responsibility with the utmost seriousness. It was crucial for Community Board 11 to engage all residents. A public hearing of our Executive Committee session was scheduled for March 12th, 2020 to bring all parties with relevant data and present "all the facts, not selective facts" so that the community would be informed and could thus express their positions. Regrettably, the outbreak of Covid-19 in New York City forced the cancellation of our Executive Committee session and further board meetings.

Although the Executive Orders issued by your office will allow us to conduct the most basic of business, it does not afford us the unique opportunity to fully engage the residents of East Harlem on this sensitive issue. Also, much of our attention is focused on the collective work of protecting the community as all New Yorkers face this pandemic.

As you continue guiding New York through these uncertain times, we implore you that any matters related to reforming the Bail Reforms be postponed during this legislative session. This will afford those communities most impacted the opportunity to gather all the facts and

present them to our constituents. Only then can we present a reasoned and fact-based position for all elected representatives to consider in Albany.

Sincerely,

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

Nilsa Orama
Chair

cc: Hon. Carl Heastie, Speaker, New York State Assembly (via email)
Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, President, New York State Senate (via email)
Hon. Jose M. Serrano, New York State Senate (via email)
Hon. Brian Benjamin, New York State Senate (via email)
Hon. Robert Rodriguez, New York State Assembly (via email)
Hon. Inez Dickens, New York State Assembly (via email)
Hon. Bill Perkins, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Diana Ayala, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Keith Powers, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Ben Kallos, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President (via email)
Hon. Jumaane Williams, New York City Public Advocate (via email)
Hon. Bill Di Blasio, Mayor, City of New York (via email)
Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Scott Stringer, New York City Comptroller (via email)
Denilyn Arciaga, Community Board 11 (via email)