



COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
1664 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10035
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Nilsa Orama
Chair

Angel D. Mescaín
District Manager

April 16, 2019

Peter Provet, Ph.D.
President & Chief Executive Officer
Odyssey House
120 Wall Street
New York, NY 10005

Re: Resolution Regarding Odyssey House Planned Treatment Facility on Wards Island

Dear Mr. Provet,

In response to your letter dated February 5, 2019 (see attached), informing Community Board 11 of the intention of Odyssey House to expand treatment services at 13 Hell Gate Circle, Wards Island, and with funding from the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, to build a treatment annex on vacant land adjacent to the George Rosenfeld Center for Recovery, please find our resolution in opposition below:

WHEREAS, Odyssey House Inc., a non-profit organization funded primarily through government contracts, has stated its interest and intent to build an annex on vacant land adjacent to 13 Hell Gate Circle, Wards Island, NY 10035, thereby expanding the substance abuse treatment services it provides at said location;

WHEREAS, Odyssey House Inc. currently operates multiple substance abuse treatment centers and supportive housing facilities at various locations within East Harlem and the surrounding area of Community District 11, including facilities located at 219 East 121st Street, NY, NY 10035; 239 East 121st Street, NY, NY 10035; 246 East 121st Street, NY, NY 10035; 113 East 123rd Street, NY, NY 10035; and 13 Hell Gate Circle, Wards Island, NY 10035;

WHEREAS, Odyssey House Inc. intends to relocate residents from one of its treatment facilities outside of Community District 11 to the proposed annex within Community District 11, and increase the current capacity of long-term substance abuse residential treatment services in Community District 11 by 60 beds further saturating and already oversaturated area;

WHEREAS, Community Board 11 of Manhattan (CB11M) has expressed in its Statement of District Needs its ongoing concern that East Harlem and the surrounding area of Community District 11 houses more than its fair share of substance abuse treatment centers and supportive facilities, and that the

concentration of such facilities in our community has created challenges to the quality of life of our residents and the viability of commercial establishments along corridors such as 125th Street, Third Avenue and Second Avenue;

WHEREAS, CB11M has urged the City of New York to prioritize the deconcentration of such substance abuse treatment centers and related facilities in our community, and to endeavor to abide by the Fair Share Criteria “with due regard for the social and economic impacts of such facilities upon the areas surrounding the sites”;

WHEREAS, CB11M has also urged that any new substance abuse treatment facilities be sited within the Community District 11 only after careful consultation and a deliberative process with the community and CB11M, and upon a determination that such services would benefit residents of Community District 11;

WHEREAS, Odyssey House Inc. has not demonstrated whether and to what extent it engaged in a deliberative process with the community or CB11M prior to concluding that an expansion of substance abuse treatment services in Community District 11 is warranted; and

WHEREAS, it remains unclear whether the services Odyssey House Inc. seeks to render at the annex will be utilized by a meaningful number of residents of Community District 11 or whether Community District 11 has a need for an expansion of such services; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, CB11M hereby states its opposition to Odyssey House expanding the substance abuse treatment services it provides at 13 Hell Gate Circle, Wards Island, NY 10035;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, CB11M is opposed to the issuance of a certification or permit by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) authorizing space expansion at, or relocation of services to, 13 Hell Gate Circle, Wards Island, NY 10035.

Board Vote: In Favor – 16, Opposed – 8, Abstained – 3

In you have any questions or concerns, please contact Angel Mescaín, District Manager at 212-831-8929.

Sincerely,



Nilsa Orama
Chair

Enclosure (1)

cc: Arlene González-Sánchez, M.S., L.M.S.W., Commissioner, New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services
Hon. Diana Ayala, New York City Council
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President

Hon. Robert J. Rodriguez, New York State Assembly
Hon. Jose Serrano, New York State Senate
Lilybelle Gonzalez, Community Board 11
Judith Febbraro, Community Board 11



Odyssey House

Where recovery gets real

February 5, 2019

Ms. Nilsa Orama
Board Chair
Community Board 11
1664 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10035

Dear Board Chair Orama:

I am writing to inform you of the interest and intent of Odyssey House to expand treatment services at 13 Hell Gate Circle, on Wards Island, to address New York's opioid epidemic. Odyssey House, with capital funding from New York State Office Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, will build a treatment annex on vacant land adjacent to the George Rosenfeld Center for Recovery which currently serves women with young children and older adults with substance use disorders.

Odyssey House has considerable experience operating residential and outpatient treatment programs. All treatment services are managed by Odyssey House and adhere to strict best practice standards of care. Odyssey House integrated treatment programs typically include a combination of counseling and medications along with access to support services, including housing, education, and job training. Residential and outpatient treatment programs meet the highly individualized needs of every client.

We believe that integrated behavioral health care—a holistic form of treatment that addresses an individual's physical, psychiatric, social, and spiritual well-being, as well as family relationships and education—is the most effective approach to achieving a healthy recovery.

As a publicly-funded nonprofit organization, Odyssey House complies with city, state and federal regulations, and strives to provide high-quality, holistic treatment impacting all major life spheres: psychological, physical, social, family, educational, and spiritual. In all of its activities, Odyssey House undertakes to act as a responsible employer and member of the community, and to manage the assets of the organization in a professional manner.

Continued

Odyssey House/pg 2

I am available to answer any questions you may have and be reached at: 212-361-1612. Thank you for your consideration and ongoing support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Provet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being the most prominent parts.

Peter Provet, Ph.D.
President and CEO

cc:

NYC Council Member Diana Ayala
NYS Assembly Member Robert J. Rodriguez
NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano
Commissioner Arlene Gonzalez-Sanchez, Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse
Services