



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457

Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President

Honorable Oswald Feliz, New York City Council Member, 15th District

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MS. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

MR. RAFAEL MOURE-PUNNETT
District Manager

April 11, 2024

Molly Wasow Park
Commissioner
Department of Homeless Services
New York City

Re: Citywide Statement of Needs for City Facilities for FY 25-26

In the FY25-26 Citywide Statement of Needs, DHS proposes New Transitional Shelter Facilities for Homeless Individuals and Families. DHS proposal indicates the need for an Open-Ended Request for Proposals (RFP) to address the need for shelters in New York City. This RFP policy has led to a concentration of homeless shelters in low-income neighborhoods across New York City, further concentrating poverty and high-needs students in schools that do not have the capacity to meet their needs.

In a May 2023, Bronx Community Board 6 received a letter from you stating that “this administration is committed to facilitating a more equitable siting process to ensure that communities across the city are playing an active role in responding to homelessness”. In a follow-up meeting with Deputy Commissioner Marricka Scott-McFadden, we presented concerns about siting and were told DHS would look into our recommendation. We have never received any further feedback. DHS’ proposal in the Citywide Statement of Needs indicates that this policy of shelter siting has not changed.

Bronx Community Board 6 again asks DHS to consider the long-term implications of its shelter siting policy. By allowing the real estate and nonprofit shelter industry to place shelters in the cheapest locations possible, DHS is ceding its responsibility to ensure that NYC communities do their fair share in shelter siting. We did not elect real estate developers to decide where shelters are placed, we elected the mayor to consider the best interests of our city and its residents. It is unconscionable to force homeless individuals coming from neighborhoods with few or no shelters to move into shelters in neighborhoods where they have no ties or support networks. We ask that DHS step up and take an active role in planning shelter locations and can do so by issuing geographic-specific RFPs for shelters in neighborhoods that do not have any.

Regards,

Evonne Capers
Chair
Bronx Community Board 6

CC: Department of City Planning
Council Member Oswald Feliz, 15th District
Bronx BP Vanessa Gibson

Council Member Diana Ayala, Chair, General
Welfare Committee
South Bronx Community Boards