Anthony Viola,
Chairperson

Kiana Diaz,
District Manager

Traffic & Transportation Committee

– Resolution –

"Noise and Permitted Events in Public Plazas in District 12"

September 8, 2026

Whereas: Community District 12-Manhattan, covering Washington Heights and Inwood, has six public plazas that serve as gathering places for residents and community organizations, including:

- West 185th Street Plaza, between Audubon and Amsterdam Avenues, at Yeshiva University;
- Haven Plaza, on Haven Avenue between Fort Washington Avenue and West 169th Street, at Columbia University Irving Medical Center;
- Plaza Alianza Dominicana, on Audubon Avenue between West 165th and West 166th Streets;
- Plaza de Las Americas, on West 175th Street between Broadway and Wadsworth Avenue;
- Post Avenue Plaza, between West 207th Street and 10th Avenue; and
- Quisqueya Plaza, on Dyckman Street between Broadway and Seaman Avenue; and

Whereas: Residents living near public plazas, particularly near Quisqueya Plaza, have raised concerns about long periods of amplified sounds, events that run beyond their permitted hours, unpermitted activity, consecutive-day events, inadequate advance notice, and not knowing whom to contact when an event exceeds its permitted hours; and

Whereas: Community Board 12-Manhattan (CB12M) recognizes that excessive and prolonged noise can interfere with residents' daily life activities; and

Whereas: CB12M also recognizes that public plazas are meant to be active community spaces where neighborhood patrons can gather for cultural celebrations, children's programming events, educational activities, live performances, health fairs, and other community events; and

Whereas: Many community organizations depend on summer weekends to hold outdoor events, including cultural celebrations and holiday programming, and a district-wide prohibition against larger permitted events on both Saturday and Sunday would limit those opportunities without considering the event's intent, size, hours, history, or location; and

Whereas: The Street Activity Permit Office (SAPO) already classifies plaza events as small, medium, or large based on the amount of the plaza used and the expected attendance, which gives the City and the Board a concise understanding of provisions for additional requirements to limit larger events; and

Whereas: A four-hour consecutive limit on amplified sound would be difficult to monitor consistently and could prevent daylong community events that use amplified sound only at certain times, while clear start and end times are easier for organizers, residents, plaza operators, and enforcement agencies to manage and enforce; and

Whereas: Advance notice, a clear on-site point of contact, compliance with the hours stated on the permit, and consequences for repeat violations are reasonable steps that directly address the concerns raised by residents; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That Community Board 12-Manhattan calls upon the Street Activity Permit Office, the New York City Department of Transportation, and the plaza managers, each as applicable to:

- Provide CB12M with timely notice of every application for a permitted plaza event and any final approval, change, cancellation, or denial, and maintain a public calendar of permitted plaza events in Community District 12-Manhattan. The notice should include, but not be limited to, the event date, set up and breakdown times, expected attendance, proposed hours of amplified sound, and the organizer's contact information;
- Require organizers of Large Plaza Events (as defined by SAPO) involving amplified sound to conduct community outreach at least seven calendar days before the event. Outreach should include a temporary notice posted at the event site in a location and format approved by NYCDOT and physical notice delivered to residential buildings and small businesses within a three-block radius of the plaza;
- Require the permit holder to keep copies of the SAPO permit and NYPD sound-device permit readily available at the event; and
- Ensure that amplified sound is used only during the hours allowed by law and stated on the NYPD sound-device permit; and be it

further

Resolved: That amplified sound levels at all permitted public plaza events must comply with all applicable City laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations, including the New York City Noise Code and any conditions stated on the applicable NYPD sound-device permit; and be it further

Resolved: That CB12M recommends that permitted amplified sound end no later than 8:00 p.m. on weekdays, and 9:00 p.m. on weekends and public holidays, provided that any earlier time required by law or stated on the NYPD sound-device permit shall control; and be it further

Resolved: That, to reduce disruption during the work and school week, SAPO should avoid scheduling Large Plaza Events with amplified sound on consecutive weekdays at the same plaza unless the event is connected to a public holiday or there is a special cultural or community reason; and be it further

Resolved: That CB12M urges the plaza managers and the appropriate City agencies to enforce the start and end times and other permit conditions, respond promptly to events that exceed their permitted hour, and address unpermitted amplified sound; and be further

Resolved: That CB12M called on SAPO to consider documented violations when reviewing future applications and to impose additional conditions or deny an application when an organizer has repeatedly failed to comply; and be it further

Resolved: That CB12M urges the City of New York to explore assistance for older residential buildings that are regularly affected by sustained outside noise, including programs for sound-reducing windows or other reasonable noise-mitigation improvements.

	Yes	**No**	**Abstain**
Committee Members	**8**	**0**	**1**
Board Members	**1**	**0**	**0**

Refer to the minutes of Traffic & Transportation for further details relating to this Resolution.

Relevant Organizations: *Street Activity Permit~~s~~ Office (SAPO)*
NYC Department of Transportation (NYCDOT)
NYC Police Department (NYPD)
District 12 Plaza Operators/Managers