Anthony Viola,
Chairperson

Kiana Diaz,
District Manager

Traffic & Transportation Committee

– Resolution –

"Resolution Opposing the Permanent Designation of Quisqueya Plaza and Supporting a Seasonal Open Street, Responsible Event Programming, and Reinvestment of Capital Funds in CD12M Street Safety Improvements"

September 8, 2026

Whereas: Quisqueya Plaza, located on Dyckman Street between Broadway and Seaman Avenue, was created and established during the Covid-19 pandemic as an Open Street that provided additional outdoor space for safe public gathering and allowed local restaurants to operate outdoors to provide a safer way for people to eat out while avoiding crowded indoor spaces, and also helping restaurants from experiencing continued financial hardships during this unprecedented emergency; and

Whereas: While Quisqueya Plaza served as an important community resource during the pandemic, the needs and conditions along this stretch of Dyckman street have changed, and residents, business owners, stakeholders, and local elected officials have since raised concerns regarding the current configuration and the proposal to make the plaza permanent; and

Whereas: Local business owners have expressed concerns regarding the loss of vehicular access and curbside parking along this portion of Dyckman Street, where parking is already limited, and so businesses have reported that the current configuration has negatively impacted business operations and customer experience; and

Whereas: Residents living near Quisqueya Plaza have repeatedly raised concerns regarding excessive noise and amplified sound associated with events and programming at the plaza, particularly the frequency and duration of permitted events, and the impact of residents' quality-of-life living in the immediate surroundings around the plaza; and

Whereas: Community Board 12-Manhattan believes that pedestrian safety, public space, access to local business, traffic circulation, and the needs of surrounding residents should be considered together when determining the

long-term use of public spaces; and

Whereas: Community Board 12-Manhattan has passed recommendations concerning noise and permitted activities within public plazas, including concerns regarding amplified sound, event hours, frequency of programming, advance notification to surrounding residents, and the responsibility of City agencies to balance public programming with the quality of life of those who "live, work, and play" around these public spaces; and

Whereas: Community Board 12-Manhattan, local elected officials, businesses, and residents believe that a major capital construction project at Quisqueya Plaza will exacerbate noise issues, remove street parking with staging and storage, impact pedestrian and business access, reduce quality-of-life, and continue to raise concerns with the lack of a clear timeline and mitigation plan for the surrounding community; and

Whereas: Community Board 12-Manhattan believes that a seasonal Open Street can still provide opportunities for community programming, outdoor activity, and public space without making the installation permanent; and

Whereas: Community District 12 continues to have numerous locations where capital investment can be used for pedestrian safety, traffic calming measures, roadway improvements, accessibility upgrades, lighting, and other transportation safety needs, and the Community Board 12-Manhattan urges that the allocaated capital be directed toward projects that address those needs throughout Washington Heights and Inwood; therefore, be it

Resolved: That Community Board 12-Manhattan does not support the permanent designation and allocated capital build of Quisqueya Plaza in its current configuration and urges the New York City Department of Transportation to reconsider its plans for a permanent plaza designation for this location; and be it further

Resolved: That Community Board 12-Manhattan urges the New York City Department of Transportation to in its place establish a seasonal Open Street on Dyckman Street between Broadway and Seaman Avenue, with consideration of the community's previously stated concerns and recommendations when reviewing and approving events permitted at this location, allowing the space to continue serving the community during the warmer months while giving curbside access outside of the Open Street season, with appropriate pedestrian, bicycle, and traffic-safety measures maintained throughout the corridor; and be it further

Resolved: That Community Board 12-Manhattan urges the New York City Department

of Transportation to redirect capital funding currently allocated for the permanent reconstruction of Quisqueya Plaza towards other pedestrian and roadway enhancements, accessibility upgrades, traffic calming measures, and transportation safety projects within Community District 12, with these priorities directly involving Community Board 12-Manhattan, local elected officials, residents, businesses, and other community stakeholders.

	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: *NYC Department of Transportation (NYCDOT)*