Queens Borough President Recommendation

APPLICATION: ULURP ##210337 PCQ

COMMUNITY BOARD: Q04

DOCKET DESCRIPTION

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the Department for the Aging and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter, for site selection and acquisition of property located a 96-05 Horace Harding Expressway (Block 1918, p/o Lot 114) for use as a neighborhood senior center, Borough of Queens, Community District 4.

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing was held by the Borough President via Zoom webinar and livestreamed on www.queensbp.org on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 10:30 A.M. pursuant to Section 82(5) of the New York City Charter and was duly advertised in the manner specified in Section 197-c (i) of the New York City Charter. The applicant made a presentation. There were no other speakers. The hearing was closed.

CONSIDERATION

Subsequent to a review of the application and consideration of testimony received at the public hearing, the following issues and impacts have been identified:

- The Department for the Aging (DFTA) and Department of Citywide Administrative Services are the applicants for this application for site selection and acquisition of property for use as a new senior center;
- DFTA is proposing to locate a senior center in 7100 SF of space in a building located at 96-05 Horace Harding Expressway (Block 1918, p/o Lot 114). The new senior center would serve South Elmhurst and Corona to help meet the needs for a growing senior population. The center would operate Mondays through Fridays from 8 AM to 5 PM for 105 seniors. Services provided at the center would include meals, case assistance, educational and recreational programs, health and good nutrition programs;
- The existing six-story office building at 96-05 Horace Harding Expressway is approximately 265,000 gross square feet located in site located on the north side of the Horace Harding Expressway between Junction Boulevard to the west, and 99th Street to the east. The proposed 7100 SF ground floor space to be used for the senior center was vacated by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Personnel from the vacated space have been reassigned to other offices in the building occupied by DEP;
- For years, Community Board 4 (CB 4) has included in its Statement of District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests that resources be allocated by DFTA to obtain property and build a new senior center. This item has been on the CB 4 priority list annually between FY2017 to FY2021;
- Community Board 4 unanimously approved this application by a vote of thirty-six (36) in favor with none (0)
 against or abstaining at the monthly meeting held on May 11, 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

Senior centers provide many critically needed services and are vital to the well-being of our seniors. Very often the senior centers are their primary outlet of interaction with the rest of their communities.

Based on the above consideration, I hereby recommend approval of this application.

PRESIDENT, BOROUGH OF QUEENS

DATE