



**BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 14**  
**FLATBUSH-MIDWOOD COMMUNITY DISTRICT**  
810 East 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11230

**MARTY MARKOWITZ**  
*Borough President*

**ALVIN M. BERK**  
*Chairman*

**DORIS ORTIZ**  
*District Manager*

August 7, 2009

Jody Rudin  
Assistant Commissioner  
Street Homelessness Solutions, Adult Services  
NYC Department of Homeless Services  
33 Beaver Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10004

Dear Ms. Rudin:

I write in response to your letter of August 3, 2009, in which you assert that “800 East 12<sup>th</sup> St. is not a shelter.” You further state:

“However, in the event of a shelter opening, [the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS)] undergoes a thorough community notification process whereby the provider submits notification to the community at the time it submits a proposal to DHS, allowing ample time for the community board to invite the provider to attend meetings or answer questions. Then DHS also submits notification letters to elected officials and the community board.”

At this time, Brooklyn Community Board 14 is requesting a detailed justification for DHS’ decision that the Common Ground program at 800 East 12<sup>th</sup> Street is not a homeless shelter, and, hence, not subject to the community notification process. We ask that you speak to the intent of community notification in formulating your response.

As is our practice regarding this program, we are posting this letter on our web site. We eagerly await your response.

Sincerely yours,

Alvin M. Berk  
Chair