

Open Letter from Pleasant Avenue Residents, March 11, 2009



To Whom It May Concern:

We, the residents of Pleasant Avenue are not being heard-our neighborhood is in jeopardy of run-over and run-down by Costco. We'll welcome Costco if Costco works with us. We asked our community leaders for three simple things to keep our neighborhood safe and viable if Costco moves in:

1. **Reverse** zoning to disallow 24 hour truck deliveries on residential streets filled with our children.
2. **Persuade** our new neighbor COSTCO to allow community residents to pay with EBT coupons, and
3. **Distribute** free Costco membership cards, to the neighborhood-it allows entry into the store otherwise unaffordable and stimulates Costco's sales. We both win.

As discussed at the Community Board meeting held on Monday, March 9, 2009, it was agreed that there would be a motion to go ahead with the proposed project pending the resolution of the following critical three conditions. Here are the details of the issues discussed:

The first and most crucial condition is to do whatever is necessary to reverse the DOT zoning ordinance that does not allow trucks to enter and exit on 116th Street.

As it stands now, the trucks (3 per hour for an approximate total of 15 trucks for the 5 hours) would be entering on 116th Street and exiting on 117th Street. 117th Street is a residential block with many infants, children and young adults living there. The proposed zoning would allow truck deliveries to disrupt sleep and interfere with the quality of life and safety of the residents (especially the children). It doesn't take into account that after Costco opens, other businesses in the Mall will add to the volume and that equals truck

deliveries 24 hours a day. That kind of high volume traffic becomes an inherent danger to a high density area filled with school children and elderly residents who are not accustomed to the volume of traffic and congestion that the deliveries will produce.

The second is to persuade COSTCO to allow community residents to pay with EBT coupons. COSTCO consistently states that it is here for the community and as a show of good faith it should allow residents to purchase goods with their coupons. More than 1/3 of residents in our area receive state funding and it would facilitate their buying power to be able to not have the 'cash or credit card only' restriction on their purchases.

The third point is in regards to the cost of COSTCO yearly memberships.

COSTCO should increase the free community yearly memberships to 2,000, as many of the residents in the community cannot afford the \$50 yearly fee to shop at COSTCO. This concession would show Costco's willingness to work with the community implementing the steps to build a good relationship in our community as they have often declared. Our residents want to see the Community Board and Mr. Blumenfeld use the same tenacity and energy to cause our neighborhood to be rezoned, hear the voice of the community and



acknowledge our concerns, and put these provisions into effect so that the entire community can benefit from this project. We, as residents, welcome the new businesses into our community but the physical and mental health, welfare and quality of life issues must be resolved so that it can be a successful endeavor for all concerned. We welcome change that enhances our day-to-

day living. We can achieve a balance between new business development needs and residential needs that we are all entitled to. We are a community who genuinely cares and will go to whatever lengths necessary to ensure that our neighborhood thrives in these difficult economic times but this cannot be done at the expense of our health and well being.

Unfortunately, it does not seem as if our community board is listening to our concerns regarding these issues. We need your help. We are asking for the support and assistance of the leaders in and around our community to ensure that the residents of Pleasant Avenue and the surrounding area are heard. We oppose the proposal of trucks exiting a residential block that right now houses over a 75 families, many with children. Please allow the trucks to enter and exit on 116th Street...help us in this fight. We need your support now!

The next community board meeting will take place on March 17th 2009, Mt. Sinai Hospital Goldwurm Auditorium 1425 Madison Ave 630 pm to 9:00pm we need your support there.

Thank you for listening

Anthony Galindez
Pleasant Avenue Resident