



June 24, 2026

Mayor Zohran Mamdani  
City Hall  
New York, New York 10007

Erin Dalton  
Commissioner, Department of Social Services  
33 Beaver St.  
New York NY, 10004

Dear Mayor Mamdani and Commissioner Dalton,

As Members of the New York City Council and State Legislature representing Manhattan Community Board 5, we write to urge the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS) to reverse its announced move to discontinue its contract with the Mainchance Drop-In Center at 120 East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street in Manhattan.

Operated by the Grand Central Neighborhood Social Services Corporation (GCNSSC), the Mainchance Center has been serving unhoused individuals in Midtown Manhattan for almost four decades. It provides essential services, including meals, housing, emergency shelter, nighttime respite, monthly grocery distribution, and other social service support. Mainchance has an established track record of helping unhoused individuals treat their medical, mental health, and addiction healthcare needs, and helps them transition into housing, training, education, and jobs.

With the closure of the Bellevue Men's Intake Center on East 30<sup>th</sup> Street earlier this year, the services provided by Mainchance fill a critical need for homeless New Yorkers. **It is the only homeless drop-in center located in East Midtown Manhattan, and the only homeless drop-in center in all of Manhattan Community Board 5**, a busy, economically vital area of the city that is home to approximately 63,000 New Yorkers, according to the Department of City Planning. The closure of the Bellevue facility leaves Mainchance as the **only** place in East Midtown offering homeless persons a bed or any other services.

As the only homeless drop-in center in Community Board 5, Mainchance is a critical link in the city's social service network. According to DHS's own YTD DropIn report, for the period from July 1, 2025 through April 15, 2026, Mainchance served over 39,000 homeless people, with 18,680 remaining overnight. The DHS report shows that females constituted one out of three overnight stays, indicating that homeless women felt safe in its facility. 19,782 homeless New Yorkers were provided meals, showers, medical attention, and nighttime respite. Three meals a day are served to Mainchance clients,

for a total of 31,180 meals as of March 31, providing vital support for food-insecure individuals and families. In this fiscal year alone, DHS' own records show that over 18,000 individuals have slept overnight at Mainchance. Mainchance also fills a need in Midtown by moving clients to longer-term placements, and Mainchance has already satisfied DHS' transitional and permanent placement goals for Fiscal Year 2026.

We understand that DHS has raised concerns about aspects of Mainchance's operations, prompting its move not to renew the Center's contract, which provides about 95% of its funding. After the closure of the Bellevue Intake Center, however, the shuttering of Mainchance's doors would exert an especially negative impact on unhoused men in Midtown Manhattan. Homeless women, one-third of Mainchance's clientele, would have no facility in Midtown to find overnight accommodations whatsoever, as the City has apparently made no provisions to replace the services in Community Board 5 provided that are currently provided by Mainchance.

The availability of drop-in centers is widely supported by advocates, providers, and health organizations, civic activists, and the National Institutes of Health. Past closures of drop-in centers have been shown to negatively affect homeless populations in surrounding areas, and the same will occur in Midtown should Mainchance be forced to shutter its doors. Elected officials representing Midtown Manhattan; Community Board 5; and the Presidents of the Grand Central Partnership, the Times Square Alliance, the NoMad Flatiron, and the Garment District Alliance support the continued operation of the Mainchance Center.

We urge the City to preserve 120 East 32nd Street as a location for homeless services or to find an appropriate site for drop-in and supportive services near this same location in Midtown East. Should the City move forward with not renewing the Mainchance contract, we ask that it sustain the current level of services for the homeless at this site in the interim, and first present a plan as to how it will replace homeless services in East Midtown at current or enhanced levels.

The City plan to end its contract with Mainchance on June 25th stands in stark contrast to the Mamdani administration's stated intention to expand programs and services for the most underprivileged New Yorkers. As the Mayor said in the City's announcement of the Bellevue Intake Center's closure on March 26, 2026, "My administration is focused on ensuring every New Yorker experiencing homelessness not only has access to shelter, but to spaces that are safe..."

We share this laudable aim of ensuring that every New Yorker has access to safe shelter. With that goal in mind, we urge the administration to reverse this ill-considered, short-sighted, and poorly timed move to reduce services for unhoused New Yorkers in Midtown Manhattan, and to renew the Mainchance Center contract. We look forward to working with you on short term and long term solutions – similar challenges in the past have been addressed with DSS/HRA staff as an interim solution.

Sincerely,



Harvey Epstein  
Council Member



Gale Brewer  
Council Member



Virginia Maloney  
Council Member



Carl Wilson  
Council Member



Brad Hoylman-Sigal  
Manhattan Borough President



Kristen Gonzalez  
State Senator



Keith Powers  
Assembly Member

Cc: Deputy Mayor Helen Artega-Landaverde, MPH, PHD  
Commissioner Erin Dalton, NYC Dept. of Social Services  
Manhattan Community Board 5  
Alfred Cerullo, Grand Central Partnership  
James Mettham,  
Tom Harris, Times Square Alliance  
Murray Hill Neighborhood Association  
Rosehill Initiative