

May 8, 2003

Jerilyn Perine, Commissioner
Department of Housing Preservation and Development
100 Gold Street
New York, NY 10038

Re: We Can Encroachment at 560 W. 52nd St.

Dear Commissioner Perine:

On Monday, May 5, 2003 community residents notified the Board that the not-for-profit can redemption center We Can, having ceased operations at 553-55 W. 52nd St., in accordance with a court stipulation reached with your agency, had unexpectedly re-opened operations in the vacant HPD-owned lot at 560 W. 52nd St. and installed a door into 558 W. 52nd St. (the Captain Post building) from that lot.

To the Board's knowledge, We Can has agreed in court that they would relocate to another site secured in East New York and planned to cease operations on W. 52nd St. As you know, We Can has used the Captain Post building for storage and the lot for parking. However, to our knowledge, there was never any written documentation between We Can and HPD governing that use.

It is unconscionable that We Can would open its operations after having agreed to move. This location places them directly between the Duncan Police Athletic League, which serves hundreds of children in after school programs, and a residential complex of which 8 of its 43 apartments have windows opening onto the lot at 560 W. 52nd St.

The Board asks that HPD take immediate action to close this operation which has been begun without any authorization and without any regard for the surrounding community.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Simone Sindin
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



Anna Hayes Levin
Chair
Clinton Land Use & Zoning Committee

This letter was approved at Manhattan Community Board No. 4's May 7, 2003 full board meeting.

cc: Mayor Bloomberg
C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Local Elected Officials

We Can Board
CHDC
CARE
11th Avenue Tenants HDFC

