

Dear Commissioner Banks and Joclyn Carter DHS Administrator,

My name is Franklyn Mena from Mastermind Connect and I am concerned about the sudden eviction of GDS (Growth Development Services) from the NYC Fort Washington Armory by Human Resources Administration (HRA)/Department of Homeless Services (DHS) Administration (HRA). This issue and the governance of the Fort Washington Armory was on the Community Board 12 Housing Committee agenda Thursday, January 10, 2019. was on the Community Board 12 Housing Committee agenda Thursday, January 10,2019.

DHS did not show up at the meeting, and no further explanation offered for this devastating eviction other than "they have the right to do so." The eviction of a 16 year tenant organization who has positively impacted the lives of our community; especially the young and elderly, required more consideration and clarity. What problem lead to this drastic step without even so much as an explanation, discussion or attempt at a resolution?

The GDS eviction letter is dated within 2 days of this piece coming out. The timing is questionable. [https://www.ny1noticias.com/nyc/noticias/noticias/2018/12/18/vecinos-se-quejan-de-falta-de-acceso-al-the-armory-en-washington-heights-?](https://www.ny1noticias.com/nyc/noticias/noticias/2018/12/18/vecinos-se-quejan-de-falta-de-acceso-al-the-armory-en-washington-heights-?fbclid=IwAR2EVZH_yBQR9mZRyItZ6hIB5xg1Gx9e4l3ZcbB5kWvRm_JCeO5VbQcNLKQ)

[fbclid=IwAR2EVZH_yBQR9mZRyItZ6hIB5xg1Gx9e4l3ZcbB5kWvRm_JCeO5VbQcNLKQ](https://www.ny1noticias.com/nyc/noticias/noticias/2018/12/18/vecinos-se-quejan-de-falta-de-acceso-al-the-armory-en-washington-heights-?fbclid=IwAR2EVZH_yBQR9mZRyItZ6hIB5xg1Gx9e4l3ZcbB5kWvRm_JCeO5VbQcNLKQ)

Why do you choose to take away such great opportunities from the lives of so many people? This will certainly have a negative impact on Quality of Life. Please visit www.excelgds.org and realize what you are taking away from marginalized youth.

Videos that GDS (www.excelgds.org) posted on youtube show hope brought back to the lives of young children and teenagers. They have learned about empathy by interacting with the elderly in nursing homes who suffer from dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Personally I urge you to sit down in a meeting together and find a solution to move forward and allow GDS to continue offering these essential and valuable services. Reconsider the eviction notice and the opportunities GDS brings to all the people whose lives are impacted by it.

The Fort Washington Armory is a PUBLIC SPACE and thus should serve the public and provide community assets. GDS fullfils this mission.

Thank you for your attention and consideration to this request. I look forward to your response and to the longevity of the relationships between GDS, DHS and the NYC Fort Washington Armory.

Sincerely,

Franklyn A. Mena