

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S RECOMEMNDATION
ULURP APPLICATION NO: C 120259 PQX
Tremont Crotona Child Care Center
November 13, 2012

DOCKET DESCRIPTION

IN THE MATTER OF AN application submitted by the Administration for Children's Services and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter for the acquisition of property located at 1600 Crotona Park East (Block 2939, Lot 90), Borough of the Bronx, Community District 3, for continued use as a child care center.

BACKGROUND

Approving this application will facilitate the renewal of a lease agreement for use of property located at 1600 Crotona Park East, (Block 2939, Lot 90) for continued use as a child care center which is known as the Tremont Crotona Child Care Center. The final terms of this agreement have not been determined. The building consists of four stories and is located on the southwest corner of Crotona Park East, between Suburban Place and East 173rd Street. The site is zoned R7-1.

The Tremont Crotona Child Care Center has served this Bronx community at this location since the 1970's. Currently approximately 125 pre-school age children benefit from a comprehensive array of services, including:

- Nutritionally balanced hot lunch plus two snacks
- Recreational playtime as supervised by professional child care worker
- Story-telling and group discussions specifically designed to encourage the development of social skills with all participating youngsters
- Educational opportunities focusing on the alphabet and the number system

A staff of 42 employees, including professional, para professional and support staff operate this facility.

The building consists of four stories, including a roof-top play area for active recreation. The site consists of approximately 32,000 square feet, of which 25,591 square feet of interior space includes classrooms, a kitchen and adjacent space for lunch and snack provisions and administrative offices. The remaining 6,336 square feet is street level exterior space used for passive activities.

Development of the surrounding community includes Public School 98, the Hermann Ridder Middle School which is situated directly adjacent to the daycare center on the north. Residential development is typified by five and six story buildings. Crotona Park, which exceeds one hundred acres of property is located on the west side of Crotona Park East, directly opposite the

daycare facility. Access to mass transit and retail activity is found on Boston Road, approximately one block east and includes subway transportation via the Numbers 2 and 5 trains.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND ULURP CERTIFICATION

This application was reviewed pursuant to SEQR and CEQR and received a Type II Designation meaning that the proposed use will have no impact on the environment. The City Planning Commission certified this application as complete on August 20, 2012.

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

This matter was reviewed at a public hearing held by Bronx Community Board 3 on October 9, 2012. A unanimous vote recommending approval of this application was 26 in favor, zero opposed and zero abstaining.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was calendared by the Bronx Borough President on this matter for October 29, 2012. Due to Hurricane Sandy and the resulting shut down of all mass transit services throughout the region, this hearing did not convene. A new hearing is being convened without prejudice for November 20, 2012, commencing at 11:00 a.m. This hearing will be conducted in the office of the Borough President, 851 Grand Concourse, Room 206, the Bronx, New York 10451. Pending public input at that time, comments made at the hearing will be submitted for consideration by the City Planning Commission.

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

Comprehensive care for pre-school age children is a critical service for young Bronx families. The availability of professionally run daycare affords youngsters an opportunity to learn, socialize and play, while also benefitting from a well balanced lunch and snack regimen. At the same time, parents can be assured that while at work their children are being appropriately cared for by trained professionals.

Since the early 1970's the Tremont Crotona Child Care Center has utilized their current site located at 1600 Crotona Park East. Approval of this application best assures the Bronx families that rely on this daycare facility that they can continue to do so.

I therefore concur with Bronx Community Board Three's unanimous decision and recommend approval of this application.