

**BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION**  
**ULURP APPLICATION NO: C 170145 PCX**  
**Sheltering Arms Child Care Center**

**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 565 Morris Avenue (Block 2338, part of Lots 3 and 100) for use as a child care center.

**BACKGROUND**

The Administration for Children's Services (ACS) and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) are soliciting approval for a site selection and acquisition of property located at 565 Morris Avenue (Block 2338, P/O Lots 3 and 100) for the continued use of this facility as a child care center. This child care center opened in 2016 and is known as the Sheltering Arms Child Care Center. The site is located in the Melrose community of The Bronx, on the west side of Morris Avenue, between East 149<sup>th</sup> Street on the south and East 150<sup>th</sup> Street on the north. This area is zoned R7-1/C1-4 zone, in Bronx Community District #1.

The building in which this center is located includes two stories, plus a basement. It offers 32,683 square feet of interior space, plus an exterior playground area consisting of 5,000 square feet. Additional highlights of this facility include:

- A program staff of 59 employees serving as professional, paraprofessional and support staff
- The facility offers an Early Learning Center and Non-early Learn health services
- Enrollment includes 20 toddlers and 120 pre-schoolers
- The center operates from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday
- Programs are designed to encourage socialization and communication and creativity skills.
- These programs uses the EarlyLearn, Head Start and Universal Pre-Kindergarten services.
- Family health services are offered.

Development of the surrounding community is typified by low and mid-rise residential buildings offering retail venues on street level. The area is well served by mass transit. This includes subway service to the 2, 4, and 5 trains, all of which are accessible within a two block radius of the site. Bus transportation operates on Morris Avenue and on East 149<sup>th</sup> Street.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND ULURP CERTIFICATION**

This application has been reviewed pursuant to CEQR and SEQRA and received a Negative Declaration. The City Planning Commission certified this application as complete on June 19, 2017

## **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**

Bronx Community Board #1 held a public hearing on this application on August 10, 2017. A unanimous vote recommending approval of this application was 23 in favor, zero opposed and zero abstaining.

## **BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC HEARING**

The Bronx Borough President convened a public hearing on this application on September 19, 2017. No members of the public offered comment on this matter and application was closed.

## **BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION**

Providing daycare for toddlers and pre-school age children is proven to be one of the most important considerations parents of such children must make. We now know that well managed programming dramatically enhances the child's social abilities and learning skills, which in turn will serve that child well throughout his/her educational experiences. It also must be noted that given today's many demands on parents, knowing that their youngster is being well cared for is a critical part of what is necessary when both parents are at work. As the child is provided with nutritious meals, and if necessary medical attention, this relieves stress that accompanies being busy parents.

The Sheltering Arms Child Care Center is an essential part of the Melrose community. I am therefore pleased to recommend approval of this application.