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South York Avenue mobilizes to save area's only deli from eviction

Hospitals consortium threatens
convenience store with loss of lease

Manhattan, Upper East Side – Residents and workers in the south York Avenue area are urging Community Board 8 to help save the only food and convenience store on York Avenue between 54th and 70th Streets. At a November 7 meeting of the Community Board's Health, Seniors & Social Service Committee, the owner of the Sutton House Deli Inc., 1155 York Avenue, explained that he would like to remain open, but that his landlord was threatening not to renew his lease. The Committee drafted and passed a resolution in support of the deli, which will be presented at the meeting of Community Board 8 on Wednesday, November 16. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. at The Hunter School of Social Work auditorium, 129 East 79th Street, and the public is invited to attend.

The deli's landlord is said to be a consortium composed of Rockefeller Institute, New York Hospital, Cornell Medical Center, Sloan Kettering Memorial Hospital, and Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital. Representatives of the consortium had been expected to attend the Health, Seniors & Social Service Committee's November 7th meeting, but did not appear, according to the committee's chairpersons. The meeting was well attended by local residents and employees of area buildings. Representatives of the deli, which has been serving the community since 1984, expressed a strong desire to continue there for many more years.

Until recently, the Sutton House Deli was accompanied on its block between 72nd and 63rd streets, by a dry cleaner, a computer store, a florist, and a pet care store, all of which also occupied their locations for at least a decade, according to local residents. As reported at the Committee meeting, all these other retailers were vacated by the landlord this past summer.

The deli is located where a small traditional grocery store served the community until the late 1970s.