



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

530 West 166th St. 6th Floor, New York, NY 10032

Phone: (212) 568-8500, Fax: (212) 740-8197

Website: www.nyc.gov/mcb12

Richard R. Lewis, Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

June 6, 2019

Hon. Polly Trottenberg
Commissioner
Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

Hon. Andy Byford
President MTA New York City Transit
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Re: Overnight Closure of Tunnel Street for Filming of "In The Heights"

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg:

At the General Meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2019, with a vote of 36 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstentions, Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed a resolution supporting the proposed overnight closure of Tunnel Street for filming, with the exception of encouraging WB to do it on a weeknight rather than on a Friday night.

Whereas: Warner Bros. will be filming "In The Heights," the movie version of Lin-Manuel Miranda's smash Broadway hit, largely on-location in Washington Heights this summer, featuring the neighborhood itself as an important character of the film; and

Whereas: One of the scenes will be filmed in Tunnel Street, the iconic graffitied tunnel connecting Broadway to the 191 1-train entrance at St. Nicholas Ave. and the creative team would like full control of the site during filming, and proposes a one-time overnight (10pm – 6am) shut-down of Tunnel Street on a Friday night; and

Whereas: Warner Bros. will provide a free shuttle between Broadway/St. Nick for MTA passengers and any pedestrian needing to traverse the tunnel; and

Whereas: Representatives of the location company for Warner Bros. came to the Community Board 12, Manhattan Traffic & Transportation Committee on May 6, 2019, and to the Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee on May 14, 2019, and gave a complete and detailed proposal for their filming locations throughout the community during the period of (approximately) June 3rd through mid-July, including many strategies to lessen the impact of their on-location filming, and many community concessions and give-backs; and

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Whereas: The film will feature locals as paid extras and lots of on-location filming to increase the authenticity of the movie and portray the neighborhood in a positive light; and

Whereas: Tunnel Street is more used on weekend (Friday & Saturday) overnights than on weekday (Sunday-Thursday) overnights; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan supports the proposed overnight closure of Tunnel Street for filming, with the exception of encouraging WB to do it on a weeknight rather than on a Friday night.

Sincerely,



Richard Lewis
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Edward F. Pincar Jr. Borough Commissioner
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Jumaane Williams Public Advocate
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Gale Brewer, Borough President
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman
Deputy Inspector Peter Andrea, 34th Pct

Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member