

Carter Booth, *Chair*
Daniel Miller, *First Vice Chair*
Susan Kent, *Second Vice Chair*
Bob Gormley, *District Manager*



Antony Wong, *Treasurer*
Valerie De La Rosa, *Secretary*
Amy Brenna, *Assistant Secretary*

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE

NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

www.cb2manhattan.org

P: 212-979-2272 F: 212-254-5102 E: info@cb2manhattan.org

Greenwich Village □ Little Italy □ SoHo □ NoHo □ Hudson Square □ Chinatown □ Gansevoort Market

February 19, 2021

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins
NY State Senate Majority Leader
188 State Street, Room 907
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

Dear NYS Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins:

At its Full Board meeting February 18, 2021, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution in support of the FURIOUS Act (Fighting Underground Racing In Our Streets), NY State Senate Bill S77.

Whereas during the Pandemic, the decrease in traffic has led to a significant increase in illegal drag racing on the emptier streets, threatening the safety of all those using the street and creating loud and piercing noises that invade the environment and disturb people's sleep at night. From March to September 2020 alone, complaints from NYC communities about this always exceedingly dangerous and disrupting activity increased nearly fivefold from the same period the year before; and

Whereas speed cameras have been shown to be an effective tool in monitoring, identifying and nailing down the miscreants who engage in these speed contests and in discouraging these activities; and

Whereas in 2019, NY State authorized expanding the number of speed cameras in NYC to approximately 750 in school zones throughout the City, however, these cameras are limited to operating only on weekdays between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., while much of this reckless and harmful speed racing occurs during nighttime hours and on weekends; and

Whereas NY State Senate Bill S77, also known as the "FURIOUS" or "Fighting Underground Racing In Our Streets" Act. provides for speed cameras to be operated in NYC at any time of day and night, weekdays and weekends (i.e., 24/7) in school speed zone areas that have been identified by their community boards (in response to local reports and public hearings) as trouble spots where this reckless speed racing occurs; and

Whereas the "FURIOUS" Act also tightens up the NY State Vehicle and Traffic Law to clearly define the criteria pinpointing those responsible for illegal speed racing, exhibitions and contests, whether engaging in this activity on the spot or planning it in advance;

Therefore, be it resolved that Community Board 2 Manhattan (CB2) strongly supports NY State Senate Bill S77, also known as the "FURIOUS" or "Fighting Underground Racing In Our Streets" Act; and

Be it further resolved that CB2 urges the NY State Senate to pass this bill as quickly as possible; and

Be it further resolved that CB2 looks forward to the opportunity to request and have implemented speed cameras' operations extended to any time of day and night, weekdays and weekends (i.e., 24/7) in CB2 school speed zone areas where illegal speed racing occurs; and

**Vote: Passed, with 43 Board Members in favor
3 Against (M. Metzger, B. Pape, and C. Spence)**

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Carter Booth, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Shirley Secunda, Chair
Traffic & Transportation Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

CB/EM

C: Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NY Assembly Member
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Corey Johnson, Council Speaker
Jacob Priley
Sam Vasquez

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February 19, 2021

Ed Pincar Jr.
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane
New York, NY 10038

Dear Commissioner Pincar:

At its Full Board meeting February 18, 2021, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution in support of "Restorative Ground," a design for a temporary Street Seat on King St. at the n.w. corner of Hudson and King Sts.

Whereas "Restorative Ground," a design for a temporary Street Seat installation to enhance and bring passive and recreational enjoyment to revive the public realm on King St. at the n.w. corner of Hudson and King Sts. (between Hudson and Greenwich Sts.), was presented by WIP (Women in Practice), a collaborative of independent design professionals including architects, landscape architects and urban designers, who have created the design; and

Whereas "Restorative Ground" was the winner, among 50 entries, of "Care for Hudson Square," a design competition calling for "a thoughtful reimagined streetscape in a post COVID / government shutdown New York," a "placemaking installation" that would "contribute to the reopening of Hudson Square," sponsored by Hudson Square Properties (a jt. venture btw. Hines, Trinity Wall St. and Norges Bank Investment Management), Urban Design Forum, and the Hudson Square BID. Partners in the project, which aims to "respond to the need for shared outdoor space, to activate programming opportunities, and...offer a beautiful piece to draw attention and foot traffic to the neighborhood," include the competition's sponsors and WIP as well as the NYC Dept. of Transportation (DOT), the NYC Dept. of Design and Construction (DDC), and The Seed Lighting, among others; and

Whereas "Restorative Ground," scheduled to open in Spring 2021, will function under DOT's Street Seat program, thus, be open to the public, with no commercial activity, alcohol or smoking allowed and signage posted to that effect, with parking lane installation that overlaps to the sidewalk, in operation from March to November or December and requiring community board approval, but it will include innovations going beyond the usual Street Seats that offer a wide range of opportunities for activities serving the community; and

Whereas "Restorative Ground" is designed to serve a diverse population of all ages, abilities and interests, as an inclusive place welcoming residents, workers and visitors and people from all walks of life, and to that end, includes three "immersive environments" for different areas of activity:

- Focused - Emphasis on community gathering and creative opportunity with big tables offering collective work surfaces and freestanding seats, gently shaped platforms for casual sitting, and low railings for seated leaning.
- Active - Emphasis on energetic movement, high stimulation, spontaneous and tactile opportunities, individual and group recreation, with vertical curved rails for climbing, hanging, balancing and leaning, sloped faces terracing up to an active area peak and with soft rope holds for climbing.
- Calm - Emphasis on relaxation, lounging and restorative activities with low bench-height platforms for resting, curved rails for upright leaning and lounge hammocks of strong paracord mesh/netting.; and

Whereas "Restorative Ground" is also conceived for easy maintenance. Recycled rubber surfacing and water-resistant marine plywood will provide both safe and easy to clean surfaces, and artificial turf at the top of higher levels along with the rubber surface will help discourage skateboarding. The materials are anti-microbial. Hudson Square Properties will provide regular power washing, and someone will be on-site to do repairs. Existing trees and planting areas will be protected by drainable metal grates over their bases that allow for rain water to penetrate; and

Whereas safety features include a ledge that's higher around the street edge and a brightly colored railing along the street side. LED lights embedded inside the various steel tube railings will be located throughout the project, providing day and night illumination. 24-hour security monitoring will be arranged by Hudson Square Properties; and

Whereas interviews were conducted to ascertain needs and guide the design, and outreach is being done to connect with community groups and institutions and define programming. Interest and support are already being received from such groups as the Children's Museum of Art and HERE Arts; and

Whereas there are no seats with backs to accommodate older people, the disabled and others who rely on back support, which would be needed for them to participate in the enjoyment of the space, but the designers have indicated that they'll consider adding supportive backs to certain freestanding seating; and

Whereas the intention is to donate this streetscape following the first season back to the Urban Design Forum to install in an underserved community; Community Board 2 Manhattan (CB2) supports applying this concept to benefit such a community and even several of them, but would like to have the option to keep this initial installation in place so that it can continue to bring the multifaceted enjoyment it promises to the CB2 community;

Therefore, be it resolved that CB2 fully supports installing "Restorative Ground," on King St. at the n.w. corner of Hudson and King Sts. (between Hudson and Greenwich Sts.), and looks forward to our neighbors enjoying its enhancement of our public space and the many passive and recreational benefits it will bring to our community; and

Be it further resolved that CB2 urges that at least some seating be provided with backs to accommodate those who would need them for using and enjoying the benefits of this community space; and

Be it finally resolved that CB2 expresses its strong desire to keep "Restorative Ground" in the CB2 community, i.e. on King St. at the n.w. corner of Hudson and King Sts. (between Hudson and Greenwich Sts.), and encourages having the design reproduced and/or adapted in other, underserved communities.

Vote: Unanimous, with 44 Board Members in favor

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Carter Booth, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Shirley Secunda, Chair
Traffic & Transportation Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

CB/EM

c:

Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NY Assembly Member
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Corey Johnson, Council Speaker
Ellen Baer, Hudson Sq. BID
Matt D. Viggiano, Kasirer
Teuta Gashi, Hines/Hudson Square Properties
Jennifer Leung, DOT