

Susan Kent, *Chair*  
Valerie De La Rosa, *First Vice Chair*  
Eugene Yoo, *Second Vice Chair*



Antony Wong, *Treasurer*  
Amy Brenna, *Secretary*  
Brian Pape, *Assistant Secretary*  
Mark Diller, *District Manager*

## COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE  
NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

[www.manhattancb2.org](http://www.manhattancb2.org)

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

September 26, 2023

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

Dear Commissioner Pincar:

At its Full Board meeting on September 21, 2023, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

### **1. Resolution in support of and requesting to co-name the S.W. corner of Mulberry and Grand Sts. 'Vincent "Vinny Peanuts" Cirelli Sabatino Corner.'**

**Whereas** numerous friends, neighbors and admirers have requested that the S.W. corner of Mulberry and Grand Sts. be co-named for 'Vincent "Vinny Peanuts" Cirelli Sabatino, a beloved Little Italy activist and constant presence who died of COVID-19 in 2020; and

**Whereas** Vincent Cirelli Sabatino lived and worked in Little Italy his entire life, selling peanuts and all kinds of Italian candies (hence his "Vinnie Peanuts" nickname) at the Mulberry/Grand St. corner site requested, a spot where neighborhood people gathered, socialized and shared information, along with many visitors who joined in the camaraderie, all drawn by the friendly community ambiance that "Vinnie Peanuts" instilled; and

**Whereas** "Vinnie Peanuts" was dedicated to his Little Italy community and generous in devoting his time to fostering improvements and preserving the neighborhood's cultural traditions. Among the many initiatives he championed and worked for was the establishment of the first new affordable housing in Little Italy in 75 years at 21 Spring St.; building support to assure the continuation of the San Gennaro Feast; improving and sustaining the Little Italy Mall; and creation of the Little Italy Special (zoning) District (He was often seen at Community Board 2 Manhattan (CB2) meetings); and

**Whereas** "Vinnie Peanuts" largesse also extended to raising money for charities, both for the community and beyond, carrying out campaigns with the Sons of Little Italy and Lt. Joseph Petrosino Lodge to collect funds for such causes as Autism, Alzheimer's, the Gift of Sight, and Cooley's Anemia,

and helping the Henry Street Settlement. In his quest to gather support, he went around to businesses and stopped people on the street, all in the interest of helping neighbors and all those in need; and

**Whereas** CB2 has received a petition signed by Little Italy residents, many occupying the same block where "Vinny Peanuts" lived and worked, requesting that the S.W. corner of Mulberry St. and Grand St. be co-named 'Vincent "Vinny Peanuts" Cirelli Sabatino Corner' and praising his memory; and

**Whereas** this requested co-name is completely in keeping with CB2's Street Co-Naming Guidelines which state that "The person or entity proposed for the co-naming must have contributed in some extraordinary way to the welfare of the block and/or the community with a consistent voluntary commitment and dedication to improving community conditions....";

**Therefore be it resolved** that CB2 wholeheartedly supports and requests the co-naming of the S.W. corner of Mulberry and Grand Sts. 'Vincent "Vinny Peanuts" Cirelli Sabatino Corner.'

**Vote:** Unanimous, with 39 Board members in favor.

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

Sincerely,



Susan Kent, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



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

SK/em

cc: Hon. Dan Goldman, NYS Congressman  
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NY State Senator  
Hon. Grace Lee, NYS Assembly Member  
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Christopher Marte, NYC Council Member

Susan Kent, *Chair*  
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Edward Pincar Jr.  
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59 Maiden Lane  
New York, NY 10038

Dear Commissioner Pincar:

At its Full Board meeting on September 21, 2023, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

### **2. Resolution requesting a traffic light at Houston and Wooster Sts.**

**Whereas** the SoHo Alliance has presented a request on the behalf of its constituents for installing a traffic light at Houston and Wooster Sts., an intersection and street crossing that has been dangerous for years and now is more dangerous than ever; and

**Whereas** with heavy, fast-moving traffic, Houston St. has traffic lights at every intersection - except Wooster St. This has led to a treacherous state of affairs at Houston and Wooster where motorists heading east from West Broadway (which is signalized) speed through, usually oblivious to people trying to cross at Wooster, indeed not even realizing that there is a pedestrian crossing at that location, and often fixated on making the green light at the Greene St. intersection and accelerating to get there (the converse also happens on Houston's north side, with traffic heading west from Greene speeding by Wooster to West Broadway). Even when the lights are red on Greene and West Broadway, drivers race by, ignoring waiting pedestrians; and

**Whereas** the Wooster St. corridor is heavily used by residents, tourists, people working in the area, local visitors, NYU students and others accessing the many shops, facilities, eateries and sites along the way, including a large supermarket, many NYU buildings, parks and a playground, underlining the exceptional importance for a signalized crossing at Wooster and Houston that ensures safe access between the neighborhoods for all those using Wooster; and

**Whereas** it has been observed that the Wooster/Houston St. intersection has always been hazardous, and the installation of a traffic light is long overdue, but people now report that the danger at that location has grown considerably in recent years because of the heavy increase in traffic. A large

increase also has been noted of pedestrians in that area, all who are concerned about using that crossing, further demonstrating the necessity of a traffic light there; and

**Whereas** it was reported that a large segment of the population living at the location and in the vicinity of Houston and Wooster has aged in place, exacerbating the difficulty of crossing that intersection for both seniors and the physically challenged who often walk slowly and have difficulty getting across the street in the absence of controls that provide for traffic stops and adequate crossing time while also finding it difficult to walk to another intersection. This difficulty is also experienced by parents with children and strollers or those with shopping carts and others who cannot move quickly; and

**Whereas** an unusually large influx of correspondence was received from the surrounding community, all strongly supporting the traffic light request and expressing their need for a safer crossing; and

**Whereas** a considerable representation from the community appeared in person and online to voice their concerns about the hazardous location and emphasize how much the requested traffic light is crucial for people's safety and accessibility, as well as for the proper management of traffic with pedestrian safety the priority; and

**Whereas** in the past, the absence of a traffic light at Houston and Wooster Sts. has led to serious crashes at that intersection, e.g., some years back as a car made a U-turn from the north side to the south side of Houston St. at Wooster, a speeding taxi traveling east on the south side there unconstrained by any traffic control swerved to avoid running into the car, lost control and smashed into the lobby of 61 W. Houston St. (fortunately in the early morning with the doorman still in back and no one else there). Another past incident was cited, in which a woman, crossing the same intersection early on a Sunday morning was hit and killed by a car; and

**Whereas** there is no crosswalk on Houston St. at Wooster St;

**Therefore be it resolved** that Community Board No. 2 Manhattan (CB2) urges the NYC Dept. of Transportation (DOT) to speedily install a traffic light at Houston and Wooster Sts.; and

**Be it further resolved** that CB2 asks that this traffic light include an accessible pedestrian signal (APS) to help all those who are visually challenged to cross the street safely; and

**Be it finally resolved** that CB2 requests that DOT install a crosswalk on Houston St. at Wooster St.

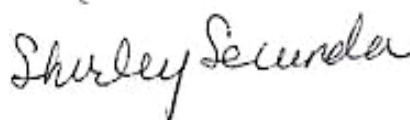
**Vote:** Unanimous, with 39 Board members in favor.

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

Sincerely,



Susan Kent, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



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

SK/em

cc: Hon. Dan Goldman, NYS Congressman  
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NY State Senator  
Hon. Deborah Glick, NYS Assembly Member  
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Erik Bottcher, NYC Council Member