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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE

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November 21, 2014

Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 35th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Dear Manhattan Borough Commissioner Forgione:

At its Full Board meeting November 20, 2014, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution requesting Stop signs on Washington St. southbound at Bank St. and crosswalks across the north and south sides of Washington St. at that intersection.

Whereas the intersection of Bank and Washington Sts. is the only one that lacks traffic controls on the stretch of Washington St. from the Meatpacking District to Spring St., making it especially vulnerable to fast-moving traffic that whizzes by without stopping; and

Whereas there is a traffic light one block immediately north of this Washington/Bank St. intersection, at Bethune St., and one block immediately south at W. 11th St. that exacerbates the tendency for cars to speed up, surging ahead to catch the next green light, and putting crossing pedestrians (which the drivers fail to take into account) at serious risk; and

Whereas this area is particularly crowded with pedestrians going back and forth all day: the many local families who reside there, people on their way to and from the Hudson River Park, children from the West Village Houses and Westbeth crossing Washington St. on their way to and from P.S. 41, P.S. 3 and other local schools, students going to the New School branch at Westbeth, pre-schoolers and their parents coming to the Perry Nursery School ½ block away, patrons of the Westbeth Theater, people walking to art events at the Westbeth galleries, as well as bicyclists accessing the Citi Bike station on Bank St. to the intersection's west who then try to cycle across Washington St., all exposed to the constant danger of oncoming, non-stopping, swift vehicular traffic; and

Whereas the Westbeth building juts out extremely far on the Washington St. sidewalk, obscuring visibility, which further compromises safety and calls for discernible signposts; and

Whereas close to 50 letters were received from the surrounding community, all testifying to the gravely hazardous crossing conditions at the Washington/Bank intersection, some recounting close calls as well as actual impacts, all calling for traffic controls, especially Stop signs;

Therefore be it resolved that Community Board 2, Manhattan (CB2) urges that Stop signs be installed on the northeast and northwest corners of Washington at Bank St.; and

Be it further resolved that CB2 requests that high visibility crosswalks be installed across Washington Street on both the north and south sides; and

Be it finally resolved that CB2 asks that the crosswalk across Bank St. on the west side be refurbished as a high visibility one.

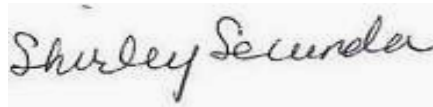
Vote: Unanimous, with 49 Board Members in favor.

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

Sincerely,



David Gruber, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



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

DG/EM

c: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah Glick, State Assembly Member
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Corey Johnson, Council Member