

Tobi Bergman, *Chair*
Terri Cude, *First Vice Chair*
Susan Kent, *Second Vice Chair*
Bob Gormley, *District Manager*



Antony Wong, *Treasurer*
Keen Berger, *Secretary*
Daniel Miller, *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 23, 2016

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 February 18, 2016, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution in support of changing parking regulations on the entire west side of Washington St between Morton and Leroy Sts. to Street Cleaning rules.

Whereas current parking regulations on the west side of Washington St. bet. Morton and Leroy Sts. are “No Standing Except Trucks, 8am-6pm Mon-Fri” for the north 2/3 of the block and “Street Cleaning rules” for the last 2-3 spaces of the block; and

Whereas the current “No Standing except Trucks” regulations are a hold-over from when this area was more industrial than residential, and now are simply abused by truck drivers who park there for hours but have no deliveries in the area; and

Whereas a petition was submitted with 41 names and addresses from the immediate neighborhood, requesting that the current obsolete parking regulations on the west side of Washington Street bet. Morton and Leroy Sts. be replaced with Street Cleaning rules, and one letter requesting this same change was received;

Therefore be it resolved that Community Board 2, Manhattan (CB2) supports changing the parking regulations on the entire west side of Washington St bet. Morton and Leroy Sts. to Street Cleaning rules.

Vote: Unanimous, with 35 Board Members in favor.

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

Sincerely,

Tobi Bergman, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

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

TB/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

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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 February 18, 2016, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution requesting a speed hump on Washington St. bet. Gansevoort and Horatio Sts. and daylighting of the northeast and northwest sides of Washington St. at Horatio St.

Whereas Washington St. bet. Gansevoort and Horatio Sts. is heavily trafficked by speeding vehicles at all times of the day and evening, a situation that is fraught with danger for the large and expanding number of pedestrians who regularly use this street; and

Whereas this sizable and growing pedestrian population includes over 700 children crossing the street each day (according to census data), many new families with children in this increasingly residential area, patrons of the Village Nursery School, clientele of the many busy stores and restaurants there such as the Sugar Factory and the new Bubby's, as well as crowds frequenting the Whitney Museum (estimated to attract 1,000,000 *additional* visitors a year to the area), all highly vulnerable to the onslaught of speeding vehicles; and

Whereas although there are Stop signs at the corner of Washington and Horatio Sts., visibility of the signs is routinely blocked by trucks, hindering the signage's effectiveness in slowing down vehicular traffic; and

Whereas speed humps have been shown to be effective in slowing down traffic and promoting pedestrian safety where they've been placed in the Community Board 2, Manhattan (CB2) area, for example, on Leroy St. bet. Varick and Hudson Sts.; and

Whereas daylighting (i.e. removing one parking space each) on the northeast and northwest sides of Washington St. at Horatio St. can provide the sorely needed line of sight for vehicles coming south on Washington; measures also are needed to prevent trucks and other vehicles from temporarily parking in the daylighted spaces and blocking the needed vision, and one preferred measure is placing planters in the daylighted spaces (that also can provide attractive enhancement); and

Whereas the new Meatpacking Business Improvement District (BID), whose boundaries extend to Horatio St. at Washington St., may be able to potentially serve as the maintenance partner to take care of such planters, as required by the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT);

Therefore be it resolved that CB2 requests that a speed hump be installed on Washington St. bet. Gansevoort and Horatio Sts.; and

Be it further resolved that CB2 asks that the northeast and northwest sides of Washington St. at Horatio St. be daylighted; and

Be it finally resolved that CB2 asks that planters be placed in these daylighted street spaces and suggests that DOT work with the Meatpacking BID to see if the BID can act as the partner to maintain these planters.

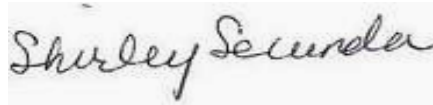
Vote: Unanimous, with 35 Board Members in favor.

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

Sincerely,



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Community Board #2, Manhattan



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Traffic & Transportation Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

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Dear Manhattan Borough Commissioner Forgione:

At its Full Board meeting February 18, 2016, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution in response to request to legalize certain planters installed without DoT approval at several locations in SoHo.

Whereas representatives of ACE (Association of Community Employment), presented applications to the NYC Department of Transportation (DoT) to legalize planters installed without permits at six locations in SoHo:

- 138 Prince St
- 109 Prince St
- 100 Greene St
- 99 Greene St
- 97 Greene St
- 93 Greene St; and

Whereas inspections of the general area revealed similar planters installed in front of: 149-155 Wooster St (6), 123 Prince St (1), 112-116 Greene St (8), 102-106 Prince St (6), 93-97 Greene St, but while the planters were of the same general design, the ACE representatives claimed no knowledge of their installation; and

Whereas the inspection also revealed placement issues with several individual planters relative to NYC DoT Revocable Consent Rules, specifically the required 10' distance between either a standpipe (Siamese connection) or hydrant:

- 138 Prince St: two planters that were less than 10' from a Siamese connection
- 109 Prince St: one planter only 8' to a Siamese connection
- 100 Greene St: planter only 9' from hydrant
- 93 Greene St: planter just 4' from a Siamese connection; and

Whereas in addition, many of the planters were less than 18" from the curb and/or reduced the clear pedestrian path to less than the required 8'; and

Whereas the ACE representatives stated that someone at DoT (who they could not name) said that FDNY had cleared the placement of the planters near the Siamese connections, but they had no documentation to show this; and

Whereas a resident from 138 Prince St. stated that the planters there were installed to add greenery and to prevent street vendors from locating there, and the committee suspects most of the planters were installed at least in part for that anti-vending purpose; and

Whereas whether it makes sense, either from the perspective of safe pedestrian movement or access to fire connections in an emergency, to replace one sidewalk obstruction (vendors) with another immovable one (planters) is an open question; and

Whereas the SoHo community, in an effort to enhance their neighborhood with greenery, began to use planters many years ago (when the sidewalks were relatively congestion free), because SoHo's sidewalk vaults prevented trees from being planted there; and

Whereas SoHo's sidewalks at this time are heavily congested, making pedestrian passage difficult; and

Whereas one set of planters, at 97 Greene St, in front of the Tiffany store has been painted "Tiffany blue" to (illegally) promote the store, and a representative from the company who was in attendance committed to working with ACE to repaint the planters to match the others; and

Whereas the representatives from ACE committed to working with the businesses and DoT to ensure all the planters are moved and resized as needed to meet the Revocable Consent Rules; and

Whereas the planters are in the SoHo Cast Iron Historic District, and it was also pointed out to the applicants that the planters would require Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) approval, and the applicants committed to applying for it; and

Whereas the applicant must also ensure that, as required in the Revocable Consent Rules, an engineer has certified the safety of any planters installed on a sidewalk vault; and

Whereas given the longstanding issues with sidewalk and street vending throughout SoHo, the committee is particularly concerned that any allowances for the placement of planters that do not comply with regulations further confuse and complicate ongoing efforts to get effective enforcement of sidewalk vending regulations; **Therefore be it resolved** that while Community Board 2, Manhattan (CB2) supports ACE's work in helping the homeless and providing training through employment, the Board can only support the use of planters that comply with all pertinent regulations, including both Revocable Consent Rules and having approval from the LPC; and

Be it further resolved that CB2 finds it difficult to weigh the benefit (or wisdom) between replacing vendors, who are movable, with planters that are not, but can't support non-complying planters simply because they're used to drive vendors away; and

Be it further resolved that CB2 supports SoHo's efforts to beautify the community with greenery, but encourages the placement of planters in a way so that they don't overtake the sidewalks, interfere with egress & access, or unnecessarily complicate efforts to keep the sidewalks manageable and passable; and

Be it further resolved that CB2 strongly recommends that the Tiffany company repaint their planters in front of 97 Greene St. to match the others in the neighborhood and eliminate commercial branding and promotion, and that all businesses that have been using planters to paint their logos and as promotional tools also cease to do so; and

Be it further resolved that CB2 advises the applicants to seek LPC approval for the planters as soon as possible as well as to ensure that an engineer has certified the safety of any planters installed above the sidewalk vaults; and

Be it finally resolved that CB2 requests that in order to provide a clear way forward on enforcement of the rules affecting residents, businesses, pedestrians and vendors, ACE and DoT work together to ensure that both the planters in question with violations and all planters are placed to guarantee the required clear pedestrian path on sidewalks and comply with all Revocable Consent Rules.

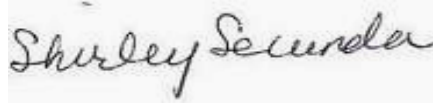
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