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Terri Cude, *First Vice Chair*
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Bob Gormley, *District Manager*



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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

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May 20, 2016

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

Dear Commissioner Forgiane:

At its Full Board meeting May 19, 2016, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution requesting parking and intersection alignment improvements, including sidewalk extensions, high visibility crosswalks and signalization changes, to improve pedestrian safety, on Greenwich Ave. from Bank St. to W. 12th St., and on W. 12th St from Greenwich Ave. to the midblock entrance for the new park on the St. Vincent's Triangle.

Whereas Greenwich Ave. from W. 11th St. to W. 12th St. and W. 12th St. bet. Greenwich and 7th Aves. have frequently presented a challenge to pedestrians crossing the street, with their wide and oddly angled intersections, shortage of traffic controls and lack of well-marked crosswalks, a hazardous situation that cries out for attention now with creation of the new, already well-used park on the St. Vincent's Triangle and the upcoming AIDS Memorial; and

Whereas since the park opened, there's a crossover from Bank St. cutting through the park that is used by subway riders to access the 14th St. station on W. 12th St. as well as by many others heading in that direction, including parents with children going to school. This has led to a substantial increase in pedestrians crossing at Bank St. on Greenwich Ave. (across two-way traffic); and

Whereas there are neither traffic controls nor a crosswalk on Greenwich Ave. at the wide Bank St. crossing, and trucks and other motor vehicles often block pedestrian visibility, altogether a danger to pedestrians that now is intensifying with the increased number of people crossing at that intersection; and

Whereas the intersection of Greenwich Ave. and W. 12th St. is exceptionally irregular and broad, with an angle that forces vehicular traffic to jog abruptly from the east to the west side of W. 12th, conceals a clear path for vehicles coming from several directions and generally obscures visibility. It also includes very long, asymmetrical crosswalks traversing the east side of W. 12th and the south side of Greenwich, all of this compromising safety for both pedestrians (whose numbers will greatly increase with the opening of the AIDS Memorial) and vehicles; and

Whereas parking on the east side of Greenwich Ave. north of Bank St. has been absent because of construction activities this past year, and demand has disappeared, allowing ample space for extending the sidewalk there; and

Whereas the western half of the south side of W 12th St has also been blocked off for construction, but much of this area is not available for parking in any case due to a fire hydrant roughly 20' east of the Greenwich Ave intersection, allowing ample space for also extending the sidewalk there;

Therefore be it resolved that Community Board 2 Manhattan urges that the following pedestrian safety and traffic control measures be incorporated on Greenwich Ave. from Bank St. to W. 12th St., and on W. 12th St from Greenwich Ave. to the midblock entrance for the new park on the St. Vincent's Triangle:

- Extend the sidewalk on the east side of Greenwich Ave. from Bank St. to W. 12th St., continuing the extension all around the corner going east on W. 12th St. to the midblock entrance of the new park, thereby helping shorten the Greenwich Ave. and 12th St. crossings, better and more clearly channeling traffic and increasing visibility. (A gravel extension with planters can be maintained by the AIDS Memorial organization).
- Install a neckdown on the northwest side of Greenwich Ave. at Bank St. to further shorten this currently hazardous crossing and making it long enough to effectively daylight the view of traffic heading east on Greenwich Ave.
- Install a neckdown on the southwest side of Greenwich Ave. at W. 12th St. to further shorten this exceptionally hazardous crossing.
- Install a neckdown on the northeast side of W. 12th St. at Greenwich Ave. to further shorten this currently hazardous crossing.
- Install a high visibility widened crosswalk, which widens on the west side across the south side of Greenwich Ave. at W. 12th St. to better encompass the natural flow of pedestrian traffic.
- Install a high visibility cross walk on the east side across W. 12th St. at Greenwich Ave.

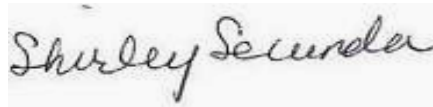
Vote: Unanimous, with 34 Board Members in favor.

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. Daniel Squadron, NY Senator
Hon. Deborah Glick, State Assembly Member
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Corey Johnson, Council Member
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May 20, 2016

Emily Weidenhof
Director of NYC Plaza Program
NYC Department of Transportation
55 Water St., 6th Floor
New York, NY 10041

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

Dear Commissioner Forgiane and Ms. Weidenhof:

At its Full Board meeting May 19, 2016, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution with comments in response to NYC Department of Transportation proposed rules for pedestrian plazas regarding the application process for new plazas, plaza revocation, and general, prohibited, and regulated uses for all pedestrian plazas.

Whereas the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) has proposed rules to create a regulatory framework for the department's pedestrian plazas that formalizes an application process to designate new plazas and establishes general rules of conduct for all pedestrian plazas as well for uses and activities within them, in response to requirements of the new Pedestrian Plaza Legislation (Int 1109- B-2016, enacted 04/21/16); and

Whereas the proposed rules concerning proposals and applications to designate pedestrian plazas do not include provisions for notification to the local community board of an organization's intent to create a plaza or for community board review of applications, as was required in the original NYC Plaza Program Application Guidelines, the result being that unless the community board is itself the applicant, it has no opportunity to evaluate and give input on a proposed plaza in its district as well as no occasion to provide or withhold support; and

Whereas the required number of eight letters (at least) of support for a pedestrian plaza from a wide range community stakeholders is not sufficient to encompass the broad constituency and points of view these stakeholders represent; and

Whereas the general rules of conduct in pedestrian plazas, including general uses, prohibited uses and regulated uses extensively cover allowed uses and activities, prohibited (anti-social) behaviors and limitations on specified actions, providing groundwork for appropriate enforcement; and

Whereas the proposed rules also include specific rules for the Times Square Pedestrian Plaza, including those which allow for the activity of vendors licensed pursuant to section 17-307 (re food vending) and 20-453 (re vending published/written matter), however, the general rules don't specify that all vending, including vending licensed pursuant to section 17-307 and 20-453, is prohibited in pedestrian plazas (where Concessions are the only allowable usage for money exchange); and

Whereas DOT has invited comments on the proposed rules, to be submitted no later than May 23, 2016;

Therefore, be it resolved that Community Board No. 2, Manhattan (CB2) urges that the following additional provisions be included as rules within the new regulatory framework that is adopted:

- The local community board should be notified of any proposal to designate a pedestrian plaza in its district. It should receive 90 days advance notice of applications for such plazas, within which it must hold a public hearing, gather community input and indicate its support (or not) for the application.
- At least 15 letters of support for a pedestrian plaza should be submitted from community stakeholders, including but not limited to at least two neighboring property owners, three residents, three different types of nearby businesses, two elected officials, two neighborhood and/or block associations, two not-for-profit groups as well as nearby institutions like churches and schools.
- All vending, including vending licensed pursuant to section 17-307 and 20-453, is prohibited in pedestrian plazas. The only way food is allowed to be purchased on a plaza is through a concession.

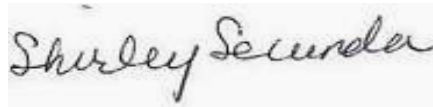
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Community Board #2, Manhattan



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

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May 23, 2016

Dawn Tolson, Director
CECM/Street Activity Permit Office
100 Gold Street, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10038

Michael Paul Carey, Executive Director
Citywide Event Coordinator and Management (CECM)
Office of the Mayor of New York City
253 Broadway, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10007

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

Dear Manhattan Borough Commissioner Forgione, Director Tolson and Carey:

At its Full Board meeting May 19, 2016, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution with recommendations for rules to regulate pedestrian plaza events in relation to rulemaking required by the new Pedestrian Plaza Legislation (Int 1109- B-2016, enacted 04/21/16).

Whereas Community Board 2, Manhattan (CB2) thanks Michael Carey, Director of Citywide Event Coordination and Management (CECM) and Dawn Tolson, Director of the Street Activity Permit Office (SAPO) for attending CB2's Traffic and Transportation Committee meeting, giving an overview of the plaza event rule-making process required by the new pedestrian plaza legislation (a process they're currently putting together), answering our community's many questions and responding to the community's input; and

Whereas they described some of the changes that CECM and SAPO have already done to make plaza event permitting more community-friendly, such as a five-day limit on the duration of events, increased enforcement on illegal uses, a 10% decrease in commercial events, a 24% increase in civic activities, and more time (30 days) for applications for events to be reviewed; these are expected to be incorporated into the new pedestrian plaza rules as well; and

Whereas up to now there have been no rules regulating either the process for issuing permits for or the management of operations during events in the pedestrian plazas, rules that are greatly needed to avoid undue impacts (many already experienced) on the neighborhoods surrounding the plazas and to ensure community access and comfort in these spaces that were created for the public's use and enjoyment; and

Whereas substantial attention must be given to the needs and concerns of mixed use, heavily residential neighborhoods surrounding smaller, less commercial plazas, with a diversity of age groups, users and uses, such as those in CB2, especially to ensure community review of all proposed events with ample time to receive notice

of applications, conduct reviews, obtain community input and give or withhold community board approval, with a duration that will fit within the framework of community board schedules and calendars; and

Whereas at present, the sole way plaza partners can recoup their costs for managing, maintaining, programming and operating pedestrian plazas is through the operation of concessions, which don't necessarily cover costs sufficiently;

Whereas Mr. Carey and Ms. Tolson confirmed that CECM and SAPO are looking for and open to recommendations from the community as they prepare these rules, and CB2 welcomes this opportunity to give input on what requirements should be part of the rules;

Therefore be it resolved that CB2 urges that the following prerequisites be incorporated into the rules for conducting events in pedestrian plazas:

- Applications for all events (regardless of nature or size) should be reviewed by the community board (CB) representing the pedestrian plaza in question (as CBs similarly review applications for newsstands, street activities and sidewalk cafes for the local sidewalks and streets they affect). Relevant CBs should receive 60 days advance notice of such applications within which they must hold a public hearing (with the applicant presenting), gather community input and approve or reject the application.
- A cap should be put on the number of commercial (branded) events allowed each year in any one plaza, and preference should be given to civic, community-oriented events benefitting the immediate neighborhood (whose total should far outweigh the number of commercial events), such as farmers markets, local art exhibits and crafts-people's displays, arts and crafts activities, local small businesses participation, children's activities, and health fairs.
- The total number of events held per year should be restricted to a bare minimum, no more than five event days maximum in anyone month, to allow for the extensive public use and enjoyment originally intended in these plazas.
- An event should be held for no more than five consecutive days.
- CECM and SAPO should create a map and calendar, accessible online by the public, that displays all the events scheduled, and this calendar should be updated regularly 30 days before each event.
- Events should not be held back-to-back.
- Limitations should be placed on both the number of daylight and nighttime hours when events are allowed to take place, as well as on what times of day they should occur.
- A strict limit should be placed on the number of events with amplified sound that can be held annually allowing no more than three-to-four amplified music events per year and restricting them within a time period that begins no earlier than 12:00 pm and ends no later than 8:00 pm.
- Any event must be in harmony with the neighborhood surrounding the plaza, including its land use, character, population, environment, activities and general needs.
- Consideration needs to be given to the size and design of the plaza.
- Sufficient space must be assured for a specific event to allow for safe, comfortable, uncrowded circulation with adequate public access.
- 50% of the fees paid to the city for events should go back to the plaza partners (i.e. the organizations caring for the pedestrian plazas) and be dedicated to ongoing maintenance and security of the plazas.; and

Be it further resolved that CB2 asks that the completed proposal for rules on issuing permits for and managing events in pedestrian plazas be presented to CB2 for review and comment.

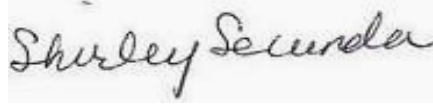
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