



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR
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Burt Lazarin
Chair

Jesse Bodine
District Manager

June 22, 2018

Daniel A. Nigro
Fire Commissioner
Fire Department of New York
9 Metrotech Center
Brooklyn, NY 11201

**Re: EMS Station 7
Permanent and Temporary Relocation**

Dear Commissioner Nigro,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) is on record requesting that the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Station 7, which has been temporarily located at 512 West 23rd Street since 2011, be moved to a more suitable, permanent location.

The current unenclosed “temporary” station has been located at 512 West 23rd Street for seven years and is unsuitable for a residential block.

In 2015, MCB4 identified a portion of the Douglaston development site on West 29th Street (601-613 West 29th Street, Block 6) as a potential permanent location for Station 7. This location is considered acceptable by the FDNY, the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, and the community.

The City’s land use review process for the Douglaston development will soon be complete and this permanent EMS station will move closer to becoming a reality.

However, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) has identified a portion of Block 675 as the temporary construction staging area for the Hudson Tunnel Project, which is part of the Gateway Project¹. Since the proposed 29th Street EMS permanent location is part of that staging area, it cannot be built until the Gateway project is finished. Consequently, MCB4, along with elected officials, FDNY, DCAS, and other parties have sought to identify *an enclosed* temporary site until the permanent EMS station is built on West 29th Street.

¹ The Gateway Project, which is being managed by a team comprised of Amtrak, NJ Transit, and the Port Authority, is an infrastructure project that will provide additional rail service from New Jersey to Manhattan’s West Side.

Fortunately, the PANYNJ, in conjunction with their search for office space for the Gateway Project, identified sites that could also temporarily house the EMS facility. The potential temporary relocation sites are in the Hell's Kitchen's neighborhood and were presented to the Clinton/Hell's Kitchen Land Use Committee at its May 9, 2018, meeting. This letter was then voted on and passed at the June 6th Full Board meeting with 35 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining and 1 present but not eligible to vote.

Understanding that any siting will still need to undergo a public review, MCB4 is in favor of the concept of relocating the West 23rd Street EMS Station 7 to a new enclosed *temporary* location in our district.

However, MCB4 would like the opportunity to discuss and resolve community concerns about expected operations once any proposed temporary location is selected. Although community concerns were addressed when reviewing a proposed permanent EMS location on West 29th Street in 2015, concerns about the impact of operations of a possible EMS location in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood have not been discussed. Some of those concerns include:

- Number of daily trips (especially emergency trips east)
- Siren noise
- Adopting a more "ear friendly" frequency as used by some hospital systems
- Traffic patterns
- Increased traffic congestion
- Idling
- Community outreach

MCB4 is grateful to the FDNY for its service to our district and appreciates your willingness to work with the community on the quality of life issues that arise as a result of the necessary work you perform. We look forward to our continuing dialogue on the relocation of the EMS station from West 23rd Street to a new temporary site, which will not unduly burden the adjacent or nearby residential community.

Sincerely,



Burt Lazarin
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Jean-Daniel Noland
Chair
Clinton/Hell's Kitchen Land Use Committee

Cc: Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker, City Council
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President