



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR
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Burt Lazarin
Chair

Jesse R. Bodine
District Manager

June 12, 2018

Luis Sanchez
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor
New York, NY 10037

RE: Street Seats at 359 West 45th Street (8/9) (in front of Bird and Branch)

Dear Commissioner Sanchez,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) heard a presentation for a Street Seat proposal at 359 West 45th Street (8/9) (in front of Bird and Branch). The Street Seat would be located on the north side of the block, between Eighth and Ninth Avenues, and would replace one parking space. At its June 6th Full Board meeting, MCB4 voted in support of this application with a vote of 36 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote.

Street Seats is a program created by the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) to increase the number of public seating areas for pedestrians when there is not enough sidewalk space to provide such. Walking markedly improves health and longevity and it is proven that older adults walk more if there is seating available at regular intervals.

Street Seats are installed in the parking lane. Each installation consists of a raised platform flushed with the curb for ADA access, planters, and seating, in conformance with the DOT's design parameters for Street Seats. It is to be paid for, insured, and maintained by the applicant, Bird and Branch. It would be removed to storage each year during the winter months of November 15th to April 15th.

The applicant presented a petition signed by 300 nearby residents and workers, many from the Film Center building. The 44th and 45th Streets Block Associations also expressed their support. A few neighbors raised concerns that Aladdin residents may use the site at night when there is no furniture.

There are already four such installations in Manhattan Community District 4, all very successful. We asked the applicant to consider extended supervision hours, to consult with the 45th Street current Block Association for the choice of finishing colors and the DOT to monitor this installation carefully and report to the Board during the next license application renewal in one year. The installation is seasonal and can be removed at any time.

MCB4 will also request that NYPD enforce gridlock violations at the intersection of West 45th Street and Ninth Avenue.

MCB4 endorses this additional DOT Street Seat that will enhance community life on this block.

Sincerely,



Burt Lazarin
Chair
Manhattan Community
Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee

Cc: Edward Pincar, DOT, Manhattan Borough Deputy Commissioner
Michael Dugan, NYPD, Midtown North
Paul Spano, NYPD, Midtown South
Brandon and Faith Lee, Applicant, Bird and Branch