



Burt Lazarin
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CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR
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April 12, 2018

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

Re: Installation of Street Seat at 456 West 37th Street (9/10)

Dear Commissioner Sanchez,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) heard a presentation for a Street Seat proposal at 456 W. 37th Street, in front of the Clinton Housing Development Corporation (CHDC). The Street Seat would be located on the south side of the block, between Ninth and Tenth Avenues, and would replace three parking spaces. At its April 4th Full Board meeting, MCB4 voted in support of this application with a vote of 33 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining, and 1 present but not eligible to vote¹.

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, CHDC. It would be removed to storage each year during the winter months of November 15th to April 15th.

¹ Joe Restuccia is a member of MCB4 who is Executive Director of the Clinton Housing Development Company. Mr. Restuccia recused himself from voting.

This application is for a 78-foot long Street Seat, using three on-street parking spaces in front of the buildings and community space. It will be contiguous with a neck-down at the southeast corner of 37th Street and Tenth Avenue, already approved by MCB4. In this case, DOT is piloting a new design without platform. Our additional request is that two planters be added along the Tenth Avenue neck-down portion of the space to protect pedestrians from the Tenth Avenue traffic.

In a related request, we are also asking DOT to adjust its street resurfacing program to ensure that contractors' scope of work include restriping neck-downs and plazas after the resurfacing takes place.

The site had previously been favorably vetted by the Hudson Yards/Hell's Kitchen Alliance, the newly formed Business Improvement District (BID) for this neighborhood and its board, which includes owners of adjacent buildings. Neighbors were notified and did not voice any objections.

MCB4 enthusiastically endorses this implementation of the DOT's Street Seat program. It is at a well-suited location, a welcoming waypoint in an increasingly residential neighborhood and streetscape of Hudson Yards.

Sincerely,



Burt Lazarin
Chair
Manhattan Community
Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee

Cc: Patricia Gouris, Hudson Yards/Hell's Kitchen BID