



BURT LAZARIN
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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June 13, 2019

Rick Cotton
Executive Director
The Port Authority of New York/New Jersey
4 World Trade Center, 150 Greenwich Street
New York, NY 10007

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

Re: Port Authority Parapets over Dyer Avenue Bridges

Dear Executive Director Cotton and Borough Commissioner Pincar,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) at its June 5, 2019 Full Board meeting voted, by a vote of 45 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, to support the installation by the Port Authority (PA) of 24 planters (and 17 trees) and eight murals on the bridge parapets (West 34th, West 35th, West 37th and West 38th Streets) over Dyer Avenue (between Ninth and Tenth Avenues) provided that the remaining pedestrian right of way is sufficiently wide to accommodate the pedestrian traffic volume on each street.

We request that the Port Authority work with the Hudson Yards Hell's Kitchen Alliance (HYHK Alliance) for the minimal adjustments that may be required in this installation. We further request that, when the time comes and capital funding is available, the PA consults with MCB4 to design a permanent replacement for these parapets.

These murals and planters will mitigate the unsightly and bulky Jersey barriers that the Port Authority installed last year on the sidewalks, in response to safety concerns their engineers raised. An inspection of the metallic parapets showed that they were damaged and could no

longer withstand the impact of a vehicle. The Jersey barriers accentuate the desolate context of the bridges and make pedestrians feel they are walking on the shoulder of a highway.

Each parapet and the Jersey barrier in front of it will be painted with a mural. The art will be selected by the HYHK Alliance, which has successfully installed murals in other parts of the district, such as at West 37th Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues.

On West 34th and West 35th Streets, a round carbon-colored planter will be installed at each end of the murals. On West 37th Street rectangular carbon-colored planters will be used to allow more pedestrian space. In addition, on West 34th Street where the sidewalk is wider, five-foot round pale green planters with trees will be installed along the curb. Five-foot round carbon-colored planters with trees will be installed in front of a mural at the intersection of West 35th Street and Dyer Avenue.

The PA will fund the installation of murals, planters, trees and plants. The HYHK Alliance will water and maintain them with some financial assistance from the Port Authority.

The addition of Jersey barriers was a significant step back in terms of humanizing the east-west pedestrian crossings over Dyer Avenue. We appreciate the Port Authority's efforts to provide a treatment that will noticeably improve the streetscape on these four blocks.

Sincerely,



Burt Lazardin
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

CC: Robert Benfatto, President, HYHK Alliance