



**LOWELL D. KERN**  
Chair

**JESSE R. BODINE**  
District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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June 5, 2020

Hon. Bill de Blasio  
Mayor, City of New York  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

**Re: NYPD**

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

Manhattan Community Board 4 ("MCB4") writes with grave concern regarding the well-organized looting that wiped out a number of businesses in Chelsea on the evening of Monday, June 1. As reported by numerous eyewitnesses, despite their repeated calls to 911 and the 10<sup>th</sup> Precinct, it took the NYPD nearly an hour to respond, providing the looters enough time to leave the scene, even though some of the victimized locations are less than a block from the stationhouse.

Our residents reported that NYPD officers on the scene reportedly explained the long response time variously that: (a) the Mayor told them not to respond; (b) most of the officers from the 10<sup>th</sup> Precinct were deployed elsewhere and the remaining few had to guard the stationhouse; and (c) individual squad cars saw the looting taking place but there were too many looters for two officers to deal with, so they drove off.

MCB4 finds all three of these answers to be completely unacceptable. If the police were instructed, whether by your office, by NYPD brass, or by the PBA not to respond, this is a gross dereliction of duty and requires independent investigation. Residents of our district should not be witnessing NYPD squad cars avoiding active incidents of looting and if this is what officers are trained to do, the NYPD needs to review their techniques.

Given the various news reports, the most obvious answer seems to be that the officers who should have been protecting Chelsea were deployed around the protests of police violence, most of which were peaceful. MCB4 requests an accounting of how many

officers assigned to the four precincts that overlap Community District 4 were deployed to other neighborhoods.

As the protests have continued this week, large numbers of police officers have been deployed to follow the protestors. Is our neighborhood again being left defenseless while the NYPD continues to enforce the 8 p.m. curfew you declared? Your curfew has created a situation where there have been unnecessary encounters between enraged citizens exercising their Constitutional right to protest and the police they are protesting against.

We want to be clear that we know firsthand there are good officers in the 10<sup>th</sup> Precinct and we are not attacking any individual police officers. But good police officers should easily recognize that the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, and similar police violence against people of color, was not good police work, but a criminal act and should readily understand the nationwide outrage.

Manhattan Community Board 4 at its June 3<sup>rd</sup> Full Board meeting, by a vote of 27 in favor, 1 against, 1 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, asks that you instruct the NYPD to return their officers to their home precincts, to protect our neighborhoods, and to leave the peaceful protestors alone.

Sincerely,



Lowell D. Kern  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board 4

Cc: Corey Johnson, Speaker, NYC Council  
Brad Hoylman, NYS Senate  
Richard Gottfried, NYS Assembly  
Inspector Kevin Coleman, 10<sup>th</sup> Precinct