



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**LOWELL D. KERN**  
Chair

**JESSE R. BODINE**  
District Manager

June 30, 2020

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

Dermot F. Shea  
NYPD Commissioner  
One Police Plaza Path  
New York, NY 10038

**Re: Restoration of NYPD Service to Communities**

Dear Mayor de Blasio and Commissioner Shea,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4), at its June Executive Committee meeting, voted<sup>1</sup> to request your urgent attention to restoring the NYPD's basic crime policing as well as community access to NYPD Precincts and the streets where they are located.

All four of the NYPD Precincts that serve our district have barricaded one or more streets to prevent access to the Precinct. The Tenth Precinct has barricaded West 20<sup>th</sup> Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues. The 13th Precinct has barricaded East 21<sup>st</sup> Street between Second and Third Avenues. Midtown South has barricaded West 35<sup>th</sup> and West 36<sup>th</sup> Streets between Eighth and Ninth Avenues. Midtown North has barricaded West 54<sup>th</sup> Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues. These barricades are manned by numerous officers and remain in place after several weeks.

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<sup>1</sup> This letter is subject to ratification at Manhattan Community Board 4's July 22<sup>nd</sup> Full Board meeting.

Per the NYC Charter<sup>2</sup> and NYC Administrative code<sup>3</sup> “the commissioner shall make available to the community board and council member in whose district such street [where parking and traffic operations were suspended] is located information regarding any such closure which continues beyond five business days, state the reason or reasons for such closure and the estimated date for the street, or any portion thereof, to reopen.”

It is our understanding that neither the City Council members nor the community boards have been notified of these prolonged closures as required by both the City Charter and the City Administrative Code.

At the June meeting of the Transportation Planning Committee, a resident (and Board Member) reported that his attempts to enter the Midtown North Precinct in order to report the ongoing commission of a burglary were repeatedly thwarted by officers standing at the West 54<sup>th</sup> Street barricades. Another resident and Board Member who lives on West 20<sup>th</sup> Street has reported that he’s been required to answer questions from uniformed officers from the 10<sup>th</sup> Precinct in order to come and go from his home, on his own block.

We understand NYPD leadership made the decision to close streets with precincts on them citywide. However, following procedures established by the City Charter and Administrative Code is always critical, and, communication and notifications, in particular, are crucial during this challenging time to rebuild and maintain trust.

We ask you to provide a date for the removal of all barricades from our precincts’ blocks, and for the reopening of precincts to normal operations.

Sincerely,



Lowell Kern  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning  
Committee



Dale Corvino  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning  
Committee

cc: Corey Johnson

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<sup>2</sup> NYC Charter, Chapter 71, Department of Transportation, Section 2903a. concerning Parking and Traffic Operations, “The police commissioner may, in an emergency, suspend for a period of forty-eight hours the provisions of any such rule or regulation and shall immediately notify the commissioner (of transportation) of such suspension...”

<sup>3</sup> New York City Administrative Code, Title 19, Transportation, Section 19-107, concerning the Temporary closing of streets, The Title asserts that “it shall be unlawful for any person to close any street, or a portion thereof.” However, in cases when “travel therein is deemed to be dangerous to life... or when such closure may be necessary for a public purpose,” the commissioner is required to notify both the city council member and the relevant community board:

“In such event, the commissioner shall make available to the community board and council member in whose district such street is located information regarding any such closure which continues beyond five business days, state the reason or reasons for such closure and the estimated date for the street, or any portion thereof, to reopen.”