



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

330 West 42nd Street, 26th floor New York, NY 10036

tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512

www.nyc.gov/mcb4

BURT LAZARIN
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

March 12, 2019

Corey Johnson
NYC Council Speaker
City Hall Office
New York, NY 10007

Re: Placard Abuse

Dear Council Speaker Johnson,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) thanks the Council Speaker for introducing legislation this month to crack down on the abuse of City-issued placards, as well as the use of unofficial and counterfeit permits and placards. The abuse of placards has led to dangerous parking practices in our neighborhood, including blocking bike and bus lanes, turning lanes, crosswalks, sidewalks, Access-A-Ride stops, bus stops and fire hydrants.

MCB4 commends the efforts being made with the new legislation package introduced. At MCB4's February 6th Full Board meeting, with 38 in support, 0 against, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, MCB4 supports Intro 1395 that calls for adding parking complaints to 311 and Intro 1394 that calls for making certain parking location illegal for placards unless the vehicle owner is responding to an emergency, provided that

- Additional locations where an agency should have to justify an emergency include all bus stops, Access-a-Ride stops, and dedicated turn lanes
- These incidents should be added to the 311 system for reporting

However, MCB4 does not support Intro 1393 that would require Traffic Enforcement Agents (TEAs) to focus enforcement of placards in those areas with the most 311 calls. We believe that the most effective way to address the cultural issue of selective enforcement by TEAs is to transfer the responsibility of managing placard use and abuse to the executive management of each agency issuing placards.

This process will eliminate all illegal placards and will curtail significantly illegal use of legal placards, without limiting the number of placards or adding burdensome processes.

- TEAs would be instructed to ticket all vehicles based exclusively on curb regulation with NO exceptions including the appearance of a placard. This recommendation thereby makes all visible placards obsolete and gives the opportunity to not renew past due and illegal placards.
- Each individual who is entitled to a placard would be registered in a new database
- When a summons is issued, the individual would request reimbursement (like an expense report) from their supervisor. They would have to show that their illegal parking was justified at that time.
- Summonses for legitimate use of parking would be paid from that department budget as a cost of doing business
- Summonses that are not justified would be paid by the individual
- The database would track the number and circumstances of summonses for each employee and the information could be used to adjust curb regulation, for statistical analysis and for audit of best practices for the City and the Council.

We look forward to working together on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Burt Lazarin
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

Cc: Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Chair, Committee on Transportation for NYC Council
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Paul Goebel, Transportation Policy Analyst, Manhattan Borough President's Office
Marian Guerra, Director of Legislation and Budget for Council Member Margaret Chin
Caitlin Kelmar, Director of Legislation for Council Member Rafael Espinal, Jr.