



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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LOWELL D. KERN
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

April 6, 202

Bill de Blasio
Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

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

Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President
1 Centre Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Helen Rosenthal
NYC Council Member
563 Columbus Ave
New York, NY 10024

Brad Hoylman
NY State Senator
322 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1700
New York, NY 10001

Robert Jackson
NY State Senator
728 W 181st St
New York, NY 10033

Richard N. Gottfried
Assemblymember
214 West 29th Street Suite 1002
New York, NY 10001

Linda Rosenthal
Assemblymember
230 West 72nd Street, Suite 2F
New York, NY 10023

Scott M. Stringer
NYC Comptroller
1 Centre St #530,
New York, NY 10007

Jumaane D. Williams
NYC Public Advocate
David Dinkins Municipal
Building
1 Centre Street 15th Floor North
New York, NY 10007

Jerrold Nadler
Congressmember
201 Varick St #669
New York, NY 10014

Re: Supporting Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Coalition

Dear City and State Representatives:

On the recommendation of its Housing, Health and Human Services (HHHS) Committee, following a presentation by members of the Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Coalition (HKNC), Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 3, 2021, voted, by a vote ¹of 41 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 4 present but not eligible to vote, to (1) urge you to call for a working meeting of invited

¹ Maria Ortiz, Co-Chair of HHHS Committee, Joe Restuccia, Co-Chair of HHHS Committee, Delores Rubin, Member of HHHS Committee & Jean-Daniel Noland, Member of HHHS Committee and members of the Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Coalition voted Present-Not Eligible at both HHHS Committee & Full Board Meetings.

stakeholders to address issues of public safety and community well-being which have arisen in the last year, predominantly in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood, and to (2) express our appreciation for the related efforts of HKNC.

Based on testimony of dozens of local residents at both our committee and our full Board meetings from May 2020 to the present, many blocks in Hell's Kitchen have suffered a significant increase in public safety problems. For example, residents have reported physical attacks, being followed, aggressive verbal harassment and a noticeable uptick in public drug use and sales. We've heard from residents who no longer feel safe when leaving their homes to shop for groceries, attend medical appointments or for any other daily activities.

In October of 2020, many concerned residents organized, forming the Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Coalition (HKNC), an organization of both new and established block associations, community organizations, business owners, and neighborhood residents. The coalition was formed by residents and local business owners to bring the local communities' needs to the attention of the City, and we appreciate their recent presentation to our HHHS Committee.

MCB4 is grateful for the assistance your offices have provided in the last year to address community issues, and now we urge you to organize a working meeting in March to address remaining public safety issues. Along with your offices and MCB4 representatives, we believe invitees should include representatives from the police precincts in our district (Midtown North, Midtown South, 13th, 10th, and Public Service Area 4), the NYC Department of Homeless Services, the Coalition for the Homeless, mental health experts, HKNC and any other subject-matter experts you believe would be helpful. This meeting will present an important opportunity to make real progress on the issues, to increase transparency in city government, and to rebuild trust and cooperation with the community and everyone affected.

Our neighbors need your assistance to continue to improve conditions in Community District Four, especially in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood. Working together, we can ensure the safety and care of all people in the Hell's Kitchen community, including temporary and permanent residents, and people who are unsheltered. We look forward to continuing to partner with you on these important issues.

Sincerely,



Lowell Kern
Manhattan CB4, Chair