



Lowell D. Kern
Chair

Jesse Bodine
District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR
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November 4, 2021

William Castro
Manhattan Commissioner
Department of Parks + Recreation
Arsenal West, 24 W. 61st Street, 5th Fl.
New York, NY 10023

Re: Tree Pits in CD4

Dear Commissioner Castro:

Members of our community were recently made aware of tree pits being filled before trees were planted in them. There are also several examples where tree pits are filled in or limited because of encroachment from outdoor dining structures as well as trash pile up on sidewalks and in tree pits. Collectively, these actions are threatening the trees that keep shade on our streets and help to clean the air.

Examples of these include the recent removal of trees and cementing over of tree pits at 445 West 35th Street. And tree pits that have been encroached by structures, used for trash dumping, or covered over with AstroTurf include: 47th Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues and 50th Street and Ninth Avenue.

At its Full Board meeting on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, Manhattan Community Board 4 voted 43 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 Present-Not-Eligible, and 0 abstaining to ask the following:

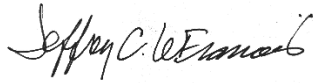
1. What enforcement measures and fines does the DPR have when building- or business owners fill in tree pits with cement?
2. What enforcement measures does DPR have when it comes to placement of impermeable materials on top of existing tree pits with trees in them?
3. What role is DRP playing in the establishment of rules for Outdoor dining as it relates to businesses who have tree pits within their storefront jurisdiction?

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lowell D. Kern
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Jeffrey LeFrancois
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks, & Environment Committee



Maarten deKadt
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee