

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

February 8, 2022

Hon. Adrienne Adams
Speaker
New York City Council
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Honorary Supplemental Street Naming for James Houghton on West 42nd Street

Dear Speaker Adams:

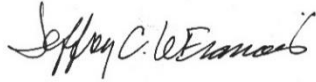
Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) supports the request to honor James Houghton with a supplemental street naming—Jim Houghton Way—on the south portion of West 42nd Street between Dyer and Tenth Avenues as proposed by the applicants, the Signature Theatre Company, by a vote of 41 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible at its February 2nd Full Board meeting.

As the founder of the Signature Theatre Company in 1991, James Houghton had a demonstrable commitment to the art of playwriting so central to our district. Throughout his career, he fostered diverse voices and pursued equity-based practices in reaching audiences. He lived for many years in Hell's Kitchen and was instrumental in the development of the Signature Theater's programming and facilities.

MCB4 finds that Mr. Houghton meets the board's stringent criteria in its guidelines for honorary street naming. Mr. Houghton had a long-standing presence and association with the neighborhood, both as a resident of Manhattan Plaza and as a prime mover in the development of the Signature Theater's home at 480 West 42nd Street, which is on the designated street for co-naming. His career-long commitment to diversity, equity, and accessibility in the theater arts meets our measure of an extraordinary record of public service. These efforts can be seen in the Signature Theater's roster of past and current productions, in its ticket subsidy program, in its robust accessibility program, and in its outreach to community organizations. The applicants have demonstrated broad and unopposed local support. This honorary naming will serve to elevate the pursuit of doing good work while doing good, in theater and in our district.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-chair
Transportation Planning Committee

cc: Hon. Richard Gottfried, NYS Assembly
Hon. Erik Bottcher, NYC Council
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Eric Adams, NYC Mayor
Colleen Chattergoon, NYC Department of Transportation
Glenn Alan Stiskal, Signature Theatre