

JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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March 30, 2022

Barbara Blair, President
Garment District Alliance
209 West 38th Street, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10018

Re: Public Safety & Quality of Life in West Midtown

Dear Ms. Blair,

Manhattan Community Board 4's (MCB4) reviewed a request from the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in Midtown -- Garment District Alliance, Times Square Alliance, Grand Central Partnership, Fifth Avenue Association, Hudson Yards Hell's Kitchen Alliance, and East Midtown BID on January 26th, 2022. On February 17th, 2022, HHHS Committee at its regularly scheduled meeting, discussed public safety and quality of life brought up by the BIDs in West Midtown with representatives from both the Garment District Alliance and the Times Square Alliance.

The Board at its March 3rd, 2022, full Board meeting, voted 38 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 abstaining and 0 present but not eligible to endorse the BID's goals for improving public safety and quality of life in West Midtown.

Pursuant to a robust discussion among members of the HHHS Committee, the Board's recommendations are the follows:

Community Consultation

- Requests that the Mayor require Community Board input, and the input of all stakeholders, including commercial tenants and residents, prior to the future siting of

social service uses in the District. This consultation is important due the concentration of social service programs in certain areas of the District (see Appendix A)

Social Services

- Provide adequate fund for social services, especially untreated mentally ill homeless individuals
- Support the reopening and increase funding and staffing of the Midtown Community Court, and its diversion efforts, to address root causes of crime
- Increase funding and support for more in-patient psychiatric beds and respite beds

Enforcement

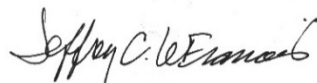
- Requests the office of the Mayor work with the NYPD and the Manhattan District Attorney to develop a strategic approach to address enforcement on repeat offenders in our community to protect the public and avoid escalation to violent crime

Since the onset of Covid, West Midtown has experienced a dramatic surge in significant public safety and quality-of-life issues exacerbated by the city's decision to cluster a disproportionate number of temporary homeless shelters in neighborhood hotels. After the shelter residents vacated the temporary shelter sites and returned to permanent, purpose-built facilities throughout the latter half of 2021, the serious public safety issues have persisted.

Assaults, open drug use and sales, assaults, robberies, and burglaries have become an embedded ecosystem in West Midtown with a dramatic increase in rates of those types of crime. Homeless individuals, with severe and persistent untreated mental illness, often exhibiting violent and unpredictable behaviors, are present throughout the business district and residential neighborhood. The combination of these issues has rendered Midtown's streets unsafe for residents, businesses, tourists, and the returning work force. Open drug activity and interconnected crimes are unprecedented conditions which continue to hinder our city's recovery efforts.

The Board appreciates and supports the joint efforts of the Midtown BIDs to address the public safety and quality of life. MCB4 looks forward to working with the BIDs in their efforts to resolve these significant issues.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Joe Restuccia
Co-chair
Housing Health & Human Services
Committee



Maria Ortiz
Co-chair
Housing Health & Human Services
Committee

Cc: Hon. Eric Adams, New York City Mayor
Hon. Brad Lander, New York City Comptroller
Hon. Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate
Hon. Adrienne Adams, New York City Council Speaker
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Erik Bottcher, New York City Council
Hon. Gale Brewer, New York City Council
Hon. Brad Hoylman, State Senator
Hon. Robert Jackson State Senator
Hon. Linda Rosenthal, Assemblymember
Hon. Richard Gottfried, Assemblymember
Hon. Lorraine Grillo, First Deputy Mayor
Hon. Sheena Wright, Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives
Hon. Meera Joshi, Deputy Mayor for Operations
Hon. Anne Williams-Isom, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services
Tom Harris, Times Square Alliance
Alfred Cerullo III, Grand Central Partnership
Jerome Barth, Fifth Avenue Association
Robert J. Benfatto, Hudson Yards Hell's Kitchen Alliance
Rob Byrnes, East Midtown BID