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CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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Ed Pincar
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Angela R. Cavaluzzi, AIA
President
Hudson Yards Development Corporation (HYDC)
c/o New York City Economic Development Corporation
1 Liberty Plaza
165 Broadway, 14th Floor
New York, New York 10006

Robert Benfatto
President
Hudson Yards Hell's Kitchen Alliance (HYHK Alliance)
412 W. 42nd Street, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10036

Re: Proposed Hudson Boulevard Park Expansion and Shared Streets

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) fully supports installing permanent shared streets or widening the Bella Abzug Park on blocks four and five between West 36th and West 38th Streets.

Hudson Yards Hell's Kitchen presented to the Transportation Committee May meeting their plans to install permanent shared streets on Hudson Boulevard East from 36th to 37th Streets. At its June 1st Full Board meeting, MCB4 voted 44 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote supporting the permanent Shared Street treatment as outlined, with the roadbed flush with sidewalks, landscaping elements and finishes consistent with the Hudson Boulevard Park, street trees, planters, pedestrian areas, lighting, street furniture, and bike share stations.

We also support extending the park treatment to the buildings' frontage on Block 5 between West 37th and West 38th Streets.

Hudson Boulevard had been conceived as a vehicular entrance initially to the Olympic, and later, Jets Stadium. While the plan changed, the original boulevard and park design were not revised accordingly. With massive office and residential towers along the edges and a magnificent new MTA station, it makes little sense to reserve significant space to vehicular travel in a district starved of green space.

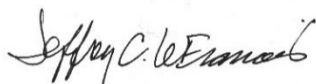
As one moves north, Bella Abzug Park narrows; at block six, the Park extends building to building, with no street on either side. Blocks one and two similarly have no street along their western edge, to allow for a wider park.

The HYHK BID is planning to install shared streets on Blocks 1 and 2 as an interim treatment on Hudson Boulevard East. Their vision is to convert all of Hudson Boulevards East and West to green pedestrian spaces in order to adapt to the new reality. We fully support this vision.

This change is timely and will not adversely affect the completion of the Park. HYDC is just starting the design of block five. Block four's eastern street is not built yet and, according to DOT, these changes do not require a remapping of the streets. It would be a terrible waste of funds to build streets and subsequently dismantle them. This is an opportunity that should not be missed.

We look forward to the use of these spaces for open spaces.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee