



CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS**  
Chair

**JESSE R. BODINE**  
District Manager

August 5, 2022

Hon. Eric Adams  
Mayor  
City Hall  
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Siting of FDNY EMS Station #7 at West 29th Street**

Dear Mayor Adams,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) is asking for your immediate attention on the matter of the proposed EMS station at 613 West 29th Street (Block 675, part of Lot 12), and the potential use by the Gateway Project which would meaningfully delay providing adequate Emergency Medical Services (EMS) coverage to the west side of Manhattan. Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4), at its regularly scheduled meeting on July 27th, 2022, voted, by a vote of 39 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, to approve this letter.

MCB4 has long requested that the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) EMS Station #7, which has been temporarily located at 512 West 23rd Street since 2011, be moved to a more suitable, permanent location (see MCB4's 2012, 2014, March 2018, June 2018, August 2021 letters).<sup>1</sup> The current unenclosed "temporary" station has been located at

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<sup>1</sup><https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb4/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/downloads/pdf/finalresosmay18/6%20CP&P%20Letter%20to%20DCP%20re%20Midtown%20West%20EMS%20Station.pdf;%20site%20selection%20and%20acquisition%20of%20property%20at%20512%20W.pdf>

- [https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb4/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/downloads/pdf/agendas/2014\\_12/01\\_qol\\_letter\\_to\\_das\\_re\\_relocation\\_of\\_fdn\\_ems\\_station\\_7.pdf](https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb4/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/downloads/pdf/agendas/2014_12/01_qol_letter_to_das_re_relocation_of_fdn_ems_station_7.pdf)
- <https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb4/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2020/02/01-CHKLU-Letter-to-Deputy-Mayor-and-Speaker-Johnson-re-Temporary-EMS-Station.pdf>
- <https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb4/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2021/08/50-EXEC-Letter-to-Mayor-re-EMS-Station-7-at-West-29th-Street.pdf>

512 West 23rd Street since the closure of St. Vincent's Hospital more than ten years ago and is unsuitable for a residential block. Significant progress has recently been made toward this goal, with a ULURP process finally beginning after significant delays. However, resolution is likely to be significantly hampered by the recent proposal by Amtrak, as part of the Gateway Project, to instead use this site for project related debris removal.

## **Background**

In 2015, MCB4 identified a portion of the Douglaston development site on West 29th Street (601-613 West 29th Street, Block 6) as a permanent location for Station #7, after the Department of City Planning came to MCB4 with a framework on redeveloping the block. This site was identified as an ideal location for the replacement EMS facility, as it is one block from the West Side Highway and would provide quick north and south access and more space for vehicles. This location is considered acceptable by the FDNY, the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), and the community.

On February 14, 2018, ULURP #180128(A) ZRM and #180129 (A) ZSM applications were filed in order to permit the exemption from floor area of the proposed EMS facility, and an increase in the maximum number of accessory parking spaces for EMS. And the Block 675 East Final Environmental Impact Statement<sup>1</sup> was completed in April 2018.

Resolution 0449-2018 was passed by the City Council on June 28, 2018, to approve the decision of the City Planning Commission on this ULURP, which includes a commitment to relocate the EMS Station #7.

After more than three years, DCP has accepted the application and we are now within the ninety-day comment period.

## **Stalled Progress**


Gateway Project planning has taken aim at the proposed EMS site, suggested that it instead be used as a siting station for debris removal for the proposed project. As this would result in yet another decade of delays, this is not a suitable outcome for the community impacted by the location of the current operation, for those carrying out the responsibilities of responding to our neighbors in need, e.g. EMS, or for Douglaston who has been eager to partner with the City and to facilitate the proposed EMS site development.

MCB4 urges the Mayor's Office to immediately work with The Gateway Development Commission to remove this site from the proposed Gateway planning scope, and immediately press forward with the proposed ULURP and development (of this important public safety need.)


MCB4 looks forward to working with you to move forward the ULURP for the relocation of the new EMS Station #7—one which will ensure adequate coverage for Manhattan

Community District 4 and the broader geographic area from approximately West 12th to West 62nd Streets, between 5th Avenue to the Hudson River.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois  
Chair  
Manhattan  
Community Board 4



Jessica Chait  
Co-Chair  
Chelsea Land Use  
Committee



Kerry Keenan  
Co-Chair  
Chelsea Land Use  
Committee

cc: Hon. Adrienne Adams, Speaker  
Hon Jerrold Nadler, US Congress  
Hon. Brad Hoylman, New York State Senate  
Hon. Richard Gottfried, New York State Assembly  
Hon. Erik Bottcher, City Council  
Gateway Development Commission