



CITY OF NEW YORK  
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

424 West 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 580 New York, NY 10001

tel: 212-736-4536  
www.mcb4.nyc

**JESSICA CHAIT**  
Chair

**JESSE R. BODINE**  
District Manager

March 13, 2024

Hon. Erik Bottcher  
NYC Council Member  
224 W. 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1206  
New York, NY 10001

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

**Re: Secondary Street Sign:  
SWC 25<sup>th</sup> Street & 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue - “Richie’s Corner”**

Dear Council Member Bottcher & Commissioner Pincar,

Manhattan Community Board 4 at its March 6<sup>th</sup> Full Board meeting, voted by 36 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to support the proposal to add a secondary street sign, “Richie’s Corner”, to the southwest corner of West 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Tenth Avenue. We make this recommendation because of Mr. Henderson’s extraordinary impact on Chelsea, his contributions to the community and the substantial community support for this name addition.

This Community Board seldom recommends secondary street signs, however, we feel that in this instance, it will illustrate the prominent role Mr. Henderson played in keeping so many people safe in addition to celebrating Mr. Henderson as a humble hero and much-loved community member.

For the last 10 years Richie Henderson has been standing at the corner of West 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Tenth Avenue to help thousands of residents of all ages from Elliot Chelsea houses and students

from Avenues School cross the street safely. More than once he literally saved children from incoming traffic. His presence and care at this intersection was such that he became known as “Mr. 25th St.” or “Mr. 25th and 10th.”

Richie was kind and generous on many levels: He knew hundreds of students by their first names and befriended scores of parents and teachers as well as near-by shop owners. Richie also remembered all his young charges as they grew, prompting him to attend graduation to celebrate the students he had known for many years. He gave all his time not only through his regular crossing-guard duty but also by escorting classes to recess in nearby playgrounds and coming in on his day off if needed. Further, Richie shared his love so equitably with everyone that he twice received the “Avenues Parents Association Diversity Award.”

Richie, who was humble to others, was nothing short of a hero - literally on the occasion of losing his life: he tried to de-escalate an altercation between two fellow passengers on the subway when one individual took out a gun and shot him in the back and shoulder on a subway train in January of 2024.

He touched the life of hundreds of students and others with kindness. The abundance of emails, letters and tributes, the 2,200 separate donations to his family, the letters for the London Terrace Tenants Association and the Elliott Chelsea Houses Tenants Association demonstrated their esteem for this remarkable man whom so many will remember.

This poem written by a parent says it best:

*Ode to a Crossing Guard*

*In the midst of a busy avenue  
A gentle giant goes about his work  
Bringing people to safe harbor  
Back and forth  
Retracing his steps an infinite number of times  
And never flagging from his purpose.*

*He stands outside of a school  
And has as much to teach as any faculty member inside  
Demonstrating through his actions  
What kindness means  
What it looks like to notice someone  
What it means to connect and to care.*

*He is just doing his job  
And yet he is doing so much more than his job  
A cherished check-in  
A shared smile  
Extending well wishes for a good day*

*Making the most of a moment  
Just a moment  
On the way to or from school.*

*He doesn't just protect children  
He instructs parents, caregivers, adults of all kinds  
How to slow down  
How to be a beacon of light in a seemingly ever darkening world.  
His wisdom is boundless yet uncomplicated:  
Every day perform a small act of recognition  
Be thoughtful and share  
Be ever aware.*

*He stood his post for more than ten years  
Yet delivered centuries of cheer  
His teachings live on  
In the core memories of children  
In the hearts of strangers  
In the people who he could call friends.*

*The children will remember  
Look both ways before you leap  
Proceed with caution  
Be a guardian of helpfulness.*

*Stand up and salute –  
A hero graced this avenue.*

Sincerely,



Jessica Chait  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee



Jesse Greenwald  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee

cc: Morgan Jones, Avenues School