



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JESSICA CHAIT
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

November 13, 2025

Ydanis Rodriquez
Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 38th Fl.
New York, NY 10038

Re: Open Dining Rules

Dear Commissioner Rodriquez,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) ¹has now approved a large number of sidewalk cafe installations under the new Open Dining program. We thank you for the responsiveness of the DOT staff to our inquiries and their help in understanding the rules. We request that you include in your budget an increase in the number of inspectors and undertake serious training on the intricacies of the new sidewalk design.

When visiting those newly licensed establishments, it is clear that not all are adhering to the new approved rules, and many choose to continue with their previous setup. When such issues are raised through 311, too often, the response is that the inspector could not find any problems with the installation.

No one wants DOT personnel to waste their time in visiting the same operator multiple times. But no one wants the program to be criticized because the operators are not following the rules. It behooves the DOT to deploy personnel that can curtail the bad operators as soon as feasible and set an example for the rest of the industry.

Sincerely,

Jessica Chait
Chair

Frank Holozubiec
Co-Chair
Business License & Permits
Committee

Wendy Gonzalez
Co-Chair
Business License & Permits Com-
mittee

¹ Manhattan Community Board 4's (MCB4) recommendation is based on a vote at its November 5, 2025 Full Board Meeting with 44 members in favor of the recommendation, 0 members opposing, 0 members abstaining and 1 present but not eligible.

