



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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NELLY GONZALEZ
Acting District Manager

June 17, 2026

Deputy Inspector Alexander Brathwaite
Commanding Officer
13th Precinct
230 E. 21st Street
New York, NY 10010

Dawn Tolson
Executive Director
Street Activity Permit Office
Citywide Events Coordination and Management
253 Broadway 6th Floor
New York NY 10007

Re: Village Halloween Parade – Crowd Dispersal, Noise, and Route Planning Concerns

Dear Commanding Officer and Director,

At the June 3, 2026 meeting of Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4), by a vote of 40 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, MCB4 writes to raise serious concerns about the crowd dispersal protocols at the annual Village Halloween Parade, and to call for meaningful improvements to enforcement and event planning ahead of the 2026 parade season.

MCB4 recognizes the Village Halloween Parade as a cherished cultural institution that draws an estimated 50,000 to 80,000 participants each year on 6th Avenue. At the same time, the current arrangement — in which the parade terminates at 15th Street and tens of thousands of participants are directed onto the residential side streets of 16th, 17th, and 18th Streets — imposes an unacceptable and sustained burden on the residents of Chelsea. These blocks experience hours of outdoor noise, amplified sound from marching bands, honking and idling

vehicles, and large uncontrolled pedestrian flows. This is not a minor inconvenience; it is a recurring, foreseeable disruption that demands a better response from the agencies responsible for managing this event.

Stricter Enforcement Protocol.

The NYPD must do a more systematic job of enforcing crowd dispersal. At present, even though barriers are in place, officers let parade participants disperse on West 16th Street between 6th and 7th Avenue — a primarily residential block — rather than enforcing the barriers and moving the crowd north and dispersing it across a wider area. Barriers should be advanced promptly to 17th Street and subsequently to 18th Street as the crowd moves through, rather than allowing large numbers of participants to pool on 16th Street. It is our understanding that the current protocol calls for exactly this kind of sequential barrier movement, but it is not being executed consistently or with enough speed.

Better and more prominent signage throughout the dispersal area would also help participants navigate the exit routes more efficiently and reduce unnecessary crowding on any single block.

The NYPD must deploy sufficient personnel to keep people actively moving through the dispersal zone and to maintain reasonable quiet on residential blocks. Officers should be present and engaged to direct pedestrian flows and to respond to noise complaints in real time.

Parking for floats and bands

Additionally, the parking for floats and marching bands and the dispersal of the bands (all of which also generate significant noise) should be located eastward between 6th and 5th Avenue so that sound impacts are channeled onto more commercial streets rather than concentrated on residential West 16th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues.

Structural Solutions

MCB4 strongly urges the NYPD and SAPO to consider the following structural changes to the parade route and endpoint:

First, we ask that serious consideration be given to restoring the parade's historic endpoint at 22nd Street. During the Bloomberg administration, the parade traveled north to 22nd Street, allowing participants to then disperse across a much wider West 23rd Street, significantly reducing the concentrated impact on narrower residential cross-streets. The 23rd Street corridor has far greater capacity to absorb large pedestrian volumes than the residential streets currently absorbing the brunt of the dispersal. We ask that this practice be restored.

Second, if extending the route to 23rd Street is not feasible, we urge SAPO and the NYPD to consider having the parade turn east onto 14th Street, with dispersal occurring along the 14th

Street corridor toward 6th Avenue and beyond. 14th Street is a wide commercial thoroughfare with substantially greater capacity to handle large pedestrian flows than the narrow residential cross-streets to the north.

Either solution would result in a meaningfully better outcome for residents. We ask that NYPD and SAPO work collaboratively with the parade organizer to evaluate and implement one of these alternatives for the 2026 parade.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Leslie Boghosian-Murphy
Chair
Manhattan
Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Jesse Greenwald
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee

cc: Hon. Carl Wilson, NYC Council Member
Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Manhattan Borough President
Jeanne Fleming, Artist & Producer, Halloween Parade
Carrie Bornstein, 100 West 16th Street Block Association