CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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LESLIE BOGHOSIAN MURPHY
Chair

STACIE JOHNSON
District Manager

Economic Development and Public Safety Committee Item #23

October 15, 2026

Hon. Zohran Mamdani
Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Helen Arteaga Landaverde
Deputy Mayor for Health & Human Services
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Commissioner Erin Dalton
NYC Department of Homeless Services
33 Beaver Street
New York, NY 10004

RE: HYHK Alliance Presentation to MCB4's Economic Development & Public Safety Committee

Dear Mayor Mamdani, Deputy Mayor Arteaga Landaverde and DHS Commissioner Erin Dalton:

Manhattan Community Board 4 ("MCB4"), at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 7, 2026, voted, by a vote of 38 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions, and 3 members present but not eligible to vote, to request that the Mayor's Office and the New York City Department of Homeless Services provide a comprehensive action plan to address homelessness, encampments, open drug use, and related public safety concerns in the Hudson Yards and Hell's Kitchen area.

At the September 2026 meeting of MCB4's Economic Development and Public Safety Committee, Dan Scorse, Vice President of Operations for the Hudson Yards Hell's Kitchen Alliance, described increasingly severe conditions affecting public spaces throughout the district. The Alliance reported persistent encampments, open drug use, discarded needles,

drug-related activity, and quality-of-life issues that are negatively affecting residents, businesses, employees, visitors, and families. The Alliance also reported collecting approximately 100 to 200 discarded needles each month from neighborhood streets and parks.

The committee also heard testimony that these conditions are disproportionately concentrated in the Hudson Yards and Far West Side area, particularly near transportation infrastructure, vacant sites, and other underutilized public spaces. The Alliance cited data showing that 42% of homeless encampment removals citywide occurred within the local Council District, highlighting the extraordinary burden being borne by this neighborhood.

MCB4 recognizes that homelessness, substance use disorder, and mental illness are complex challenges requiring compassionate solutions. At the same time, allowing individuals to remain unsheltered in unsafe conditions while public spaces experience escalating disorder is not serving those in need or the broader community. Residents, businesses, property owners, workers, and visitors continue to report concerns regarding safety, sanitation, accessibility, and quality of life.

Accordingly, MCB4 would like to better understand how this administration is spearheading the effort to:

- Increase public safety measures to address open drug use, drug dealing, and other antisocial activity in the public realm.
- Improve needle recovery, sanitation, and maintenance efforts in affected locations.
- Plan strategies to address individuals experiencing severe mental illness and substance use disorders particularly in our community which has among the highest numbers of social service providers, narcotics arrests and homeless removal in the entire City.
- Adjust procedures and timelines for responding to encampments and emergency sanitation conditions to improve safety and street conditions.
- Coordinate among DHS, street outreach teams, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, NYPD, and other relevant agencies.
- Expand street outreach and engagement efforts for unsheltered individuals.

The Hudson Yards and Hell's Kitchen area remains a critical economic engine for New York City, home to residents, small businesses, major employers, cultural institutions, and millions of annual visitors. The community seeks both immediate action and a long-term strategy to restore safe, clean, accessible public spaces while ensuring that vulnerable individuals receive the services and support they need.

We look forward to your prompt response and to working together on meaningful solutions for the neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Leslie Boghosian-Murphy
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4

Delores Rubin
Co-chair
Economic Development & Public Safety Committee

Tina Nelson
Co-chair
Economic Development & Public Safety Committee

CC: Hon. Carl Wilson, NYC Council
Hon. Tony Simone, New York State Assembly
Hon. Erik Bottcher, New York State Senate
Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Manhattan Borough President