



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

330 West 42nd Street, 26th floor New York, NY 10036
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512
www.nyc.gov/mcb4

CHRISTINE BERTHET
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

August 1, 2014

Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor
New York, NY 10038

**Re: Parking Regulation Change
West 19th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues**

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) requests that both DOT change the parking regulations from approximately mid-block on West 19th Street between 6th and 7th Avenue (at the loading dock for the Metropolitan Pavilion, 124 West 19th Street) west to the Fire Department parking zone (which begins in front of 142 West 19th Street) on the south side of the street from “No Standing, Except Trucks Loading and Unloading, 8am to 6pm, M-F” to Residential Alternate Side parking regulations (with hours done in conjunction with NYC Department of Sanitation). We also request that the “No Parking, 10pm to 5am” be removed from both the North and South side of the block from 6th to 7th Avenue.

Manhattan CB4 makes these requests for several reasons:

- **Metropolitan Pavilion frequent use and misuse of Loading Zone:** Residents of West 19th Street and the newly formed block association for Southeast Chelsea spoke at the Transportation Planning Committee’s July meeting about the frequent use by Metropolitan Pavilion of the available loading spaces, often in appropriate ways, including loading and unloading trucks between midnight and 6am; coning off spaces for use specifically by their trucks; leaving trash on the sidewalk after unloading trucks, and using spaces on both the north and south side of the street with much activity utilizing “special event” signs in their windshield;
- **No major nightclubs on this block or immediately adjacent:** Restriction of overnight parking is typically done to mitigate noise from late-night night clubs in residential areas. According to residents, this restriction instead seems to be enabling noise from loading and unloading late-night trucks;
- **Increased Residential Use on West 19th Street:** There have been an increase in residential buildings on West 19th Street (with another one to be opened shortly on the South Side of the street), changing the character of the block.

We note that the parking regulations were changed at the request of CB4 several years ago to including “No Standing, Except Trucks Loading and Unloading,” after consultation with local retail businesses, residents, and commercial (mostly office) building owners based on the request of Metropolitan Pavilion. However, their reported behavior indicates that they have not been able to ensure their use is compatible with their neighbors and has used the Truck Loading zone and it’s relevant times as a base to expand from rather than as its allowed loading area and hours.

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet
Chair



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee



Ernest Modarelli
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee