



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**JOHN WEIS**  
Chair

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

March 30, 2011

Robert K. Steel  
Deputy Mayor for Economic Development  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Stephen Goldsmith  
Deputy Mayor for Operations  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

**Re: NYPD Mounted Unit Stable  
Permanent Location at Clinton Park Development  
770 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

Dear Deputy Mayors Steel and Goldsmith:

It has come to the attention of Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) that the administration is considering abandoning the plan to move the New York Police Department Mounted Unit ("NYPD Mounted Unit") stable from its current temporary location at Pier 76 in Hudson River Park to a permanent home in the Clinton Park development at 770 Eleventh Avenue, between West 53<sup>rd</sup> and West 54<sup>th</sup> Streets. CB4 strongly urges you to reconsider this action.

The decision to move the NYPD Mounted Unit stable to the Clinton Park site was the result of community discussions spanning a period of five years. The NYPD Mounted Unit stable is a difficult public facility to site and has been repeatedly relocated over the last several years. The stable was first displaced by the construction of a luxury residential building at West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Ninth Avenue; it was then relocated to West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues where it was again displaced due to the construction of a luxury residential building.

The stable then moved to Pier 64 at West 24<sup>th</sup> Street within the New York State controlled Hudson River Park. With the State and the City funding the construction of Chelsea Waterside Park on Pier 64, the stable was again displaced and was temporarily relocated to Pier 76. The relocation to Pier 76 at West 36<sup>th</sup> Street is temporary, since that site also must be vacated pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Hudson River Park Trust regarding the City's use of state parkland for public facilities.

Pier 76, located within Hudson River Park, is slated to be developed as 50% park use and 50% commercial use. The City is also obligated to relocate the Department of Transportation vehicle tow pound as required by New York State law under the Hudson River Park Act. CB4's conditional approval to temporarily relocate the NYPD

Mounted Unit stable to Pier 76 was based on the framework that the Mayor's office and the community would work together to permanently relocate the stable to a location within Community District #4. The NYPD Mounted Unit stable has historically been housed in the Clinton/Hell's Kitchen neighborhood and is a vital part of our community as the NYPD Mounted Unit primarily serves Times Square and Midtown. The NYPD Mounted Unit stable cannot remain on Pier 76.

Members of the community, the NYPD Mounted Unit, CB4, and the local elected officials worked for five years to find a suitable permanent home for the NYPD Mounted Unit stable. As part of the rezoning action for Clinton Park, Two Trees (the Clinton Park developer) and the NYPD Mounted Unit came to an agreement to house the stable in the Clinton Park development.

The shell of the space for the NYPD Mounted Unit stable has already been designed to meet the needs and specifications of the NYPD. Further, the Clinton Park stable site is currently in construction and is ready to be built out. Not moving the stable into Clinton Park will discard of a solution forged over five years of community negotiations with both the public and a private developer. Most importantly, the NYPD Mounted Unit stable needs to vacate Hudson River Park in the near future, and without Clinton Park, it has no suitable location to occupy.

The decision to relocate the NYPD Mounted Unit stable to Clinton Park marked the resolution of a very difficult public facility siting issue and highlighted what the community process can achieve. This joint resolution, agreed to by a private developer, the NYPD and the community brought a 21<sup>st</sup> Century public/private solution to bear in order to house a unique 19<sup>th</sup> Century public facility.

CB4 strongly urges the City to reconsider this action and reaffirm its commitment to placing the NYPD Mounted Unit stable in the Clinton Park development.

Sincerely,



John Weis  
Chair

CC: Raymond W. Kelly, NYPD  
Amanda Burden, City Planning Commission  
Hudson River Park Trust  
Friends of Hudson River Park  
Local Elected Officials  
Two Trees