



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**COREY JOHNSON**  
Chair

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

July 27, 2011

Ms. Margaret Forgione  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
New York City Department of Transportation  
40 Worth Street  
New York, New York 10013

**Re: Bike Rack relocation – W. 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Ninth Avenue**

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) requests the relocation of one bike rack currently located just south of the entrance to 76 Ninth Avenue, to a suitable location east of Ninth Avenue on West 15<sup>th</sup> Street. This will allow the food cart operator recently relocated to West 15<sup>th</sup> Street to return to his previous location he occupied for 20 years near the entrance for 76 Ninth Avenue.

Last year, the operator had reluctantly accepted a relocation to make way to the bike rack. However the relocation has proven catastrophic to his livelihood as his business has dipped by approximately 75%.

We should also note that when CB4 originally approved the redesign of Ninth Avenue between West 14<sup>th</sup> and West 16<sup>th</sup> Streets as proposed by Chelsea Improvement Corporation, the approval was based on a plan that did not include a bike rack at this location specifically to enable the continued operation of this cart. We also note that, with just two weeks notification of the CB4 public hearing, the operator gathered over 400 signatures on a petition requesting his return to his previous location.

While CIC recently has indicated its opposition to the removal of the bicycle rack and return of the vendor to that location, citing sanitation complaints about the cart's operation, this has not been consistent with the 20 year history of this vendor or the observation of other neighbors.

In these times of hardship, it behooves us to prioritize the livelihood of hard working individuals who support their family over the marginal inconvenience of a relocated bike rack.

Sincerely yours,

Corey Johnson  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board 4

Christine Berthet  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee

Jay Marcus  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee

cc: CIC  
Electeds  
DCA