



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**JOHN WEIS**  
Chair

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District Manager

June 1, 2011

**Report of the Transportation Committee to Manhattan Community Board 4:  
Meeting with NYPD Officials regarding Traffic Enforcement.**

The Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) Transportation Committee held a hearing on a number of safety concerns residents have brought to our attention about traffic management and traffic enforcement at various intersections in our district.

We invited senior members of the New York Police Department (NYPD) to hear these concerns directly and help us resolve ongoing safety concerns. Inspector Pilecki, and Deputy Inspector Hanover, both reporting to Chief of Transportation Tuller, as well Lieutenant Chris Druckman and Traffic Enforcement Agent (TEA) Anthony Dellapenta represented New York Police Department (NYPD) They listened, answered all residents' questions and took away suggestions.

NYPD clarified roles and responsibilities and their priorities:

- TEAs direct the traffic, give gridlock (or spill back) summonses, give parking tickets and idling tickets.
- All other moving violations are given by police officers, even bikes on sidewalk and bikes running red lights.
- NYPD's new transportation priority is "Pedestrian First" instead of moving traffic". Stickers have been printed, and TEA training is underway.

The community requested stricter enforcement of moving violations, sidewalk obstructions, idling and a more strategic deployment of resources at known hot spots. (List is below)

NYPD agreed to consider community suggestions related to TEA protocols and placement:

- A TEA is needed fulltime at 45<sup>th</sup> Street and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue until the end of this school year.
- At the intersection of two-way streets with avenues, the TEA should never wave turning cars into unsuspecting pedestrians crossing with the light. We'd like to see the TEA positioned in front of the pedestrian crossing where the pedestrians are most at risk. (South and East)
- The TEA should only wave cars through a red light if there is excessive vehicle accumulation or emergency vehicles. The practice of constantly waving cars through red lights is dangerous to pedestrians and encourages drivers to run red lights as a matter of course.
- TEAs should use the whistle as a matter of exception only, to alert pedestrians and cars that they are overriding the light. When used constantly, the whistle becomes ineffective and negatively affects the quality of life of nearby residents.
- TEAs should give out tickets and idling summonses to commercial buses and vans rather than asking them to leave.
- Could NYPD support changing accident reports so that include a description of the vehicles and specify whether the vehicle is "a quiet vehicle" (hybrid or electric).

NYPD indicated that 311 calls for increased enforcement at specific locations are taken in account and analyzed at Trafficstats, the multi-agency monthly meeting to review problematic locations) and therefore are a good tool for the public to use.

The community also complained of bicyclists going the wrong way and driving on sidewalks. While this session was mostly attended by Hell's Kitchen residents, we have received similar complaints in Chelsea. We will monitor progress and invite members of the NYPD again in four months in order to address that section of the district.

## List of Hot Spots mentioned at the meeting

### **Moving violations**

Yield to pedestrians on turning movements:

- Eastward turns from 9th Avenue onto 40th, 38th, 30th streets
- Westward turns from 11th Avenue onto 41st Street
- Southward turns from 43rd Street onto 9th Avenue
- Westward turns from 9th Avenue onto 45th Street
- Eastward turns from 9th Avenue onto 43rd to 50<sup>th</sup>, 58th street
- Northward turns from 48th Street onto 8th Avenue

#### Running red lights

- Westward on 39th Street at 9th Avenue
- Eastward on 42nd Street at 9th Avenue

#### Bicycles going the wrong way

- 8th Avenue from 14th to 34th Streets

#### Bicycles on sidewalk

- West of 9th Avenue between 33rd and 34th Streets

#### Cars driving on sidewalk or going the wrong way

- South west corner of 10th Avenue and 45th Street

#### Speeding

- 29th Street between 9th and 10th Avenues
- 9th Avenue from 57th to 45th Streets

### **Non Moving violations**

#### Gridlock on streets

- 37th Street at 9th Avenue (p.m. and weekends)
- 39th Street at 9th Avenue (week end)
- 40th Street at 9th Avenue
- 41st Street at 9th Avenue
- 44th Street at 9th Avenue (a.m.)

#### Gridlock on avenues

- 9th Avenue from 37th Street to 45th Street, p.m. and Sunday p.m.

#### Illegal bus parking and Idling – please enforce idling laws

- 23rd to 29th Streets between 8th and 9th Avenues
- 9th Avenue between 31st and 34th Street (School Zone – 1 minute limit)
- 38th to 40th Streets between 8th and 9th Avenues
- 43rd and 42nd Streets between 8th and 9th Avenues (School Zone 1 minute limit)
- 9th and 8th Avenues between 43rd and 38th Streets
- 50th and 51st Streets between 8th and 9th Avenues (School zone- 1 minute limit)
- 58th Street between 8th and 9th Avenues

#### Sidewalk obstructions

- Tow away cars parked on sidewalk
  - North side of 44th Street, west of 10th Avenue.
- Remove illegal electric bicycles, scooters and motorcycles on sidewalk
  - 34th to 41st Streets on west side of 9th Avenue
  - 50's on west side of 8th Avenue

Sincerely yours,



John Weis  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



Christine Berthet  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee



Jay Marcus  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee

Cc Margaret Forgione , DOT

Cc: NYPD 10th Precinct

Cc: Inspector Pilecki

Cc: Elected officials