



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JOHN WEIS
Chair

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

May 4, 2011

Commissioner Carole Post
NYC Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications
75 Park Place, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Pilot Program for PPTs

Dear Commissioner Post:

Manhattan Community Board 4 would like to request that DOITT opens up a dialogue about Public Payphones and their potential redesign and/or reconfiguration. We would offer Manhattan Community Board 4 to be a potential pilot site for such a program.

Over 96% of the United States population has a wireless cell or smart phone subscription. With the proliferation of cell and smart phones, the need for traditional payphones – particularly in the density they exist Manhattan Community Board 4's neighborhoods - has diminished. We understand that there is still a need for payphones in areas that have low cell and/or home phone ownership rates. We also understand that the revenue provided to the city by both Public Payphone Franchise fees and advertising revenue is substantial, estimated at over \$18 million for FY 2012. However, we feel the traditional use, design footprint, and placements are no longer relevant.

We would thus request the DOITT begin to work with Community Boards, the franchises, and other stakeholders in rethinking the design and function of what are now called "Public Payphones." There are a variety of opinions and ideas – ranging from creating cell/smart phone fast battery charge stations and/or internet access (with 911 contact capabilities remaining and 311 contact capabilities added) to installing just advertising posts. In any

case, it would seem important to redefine these stations, particularly in ways that reduce their combined footprint in congested areas.

We congratulate you on the recent 2011 NYS Public Sector CIO of the Year award and on the innovation DOITT has shown in both internal and external city information and communications. We will look forward to working with you on both design and functionality innovations on what are currently Public Payphones.

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: NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn
Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer
NYS Senator Thomas K. Duane
NYS Assemblyman Richard Gottfried
Congressman Jerrold Nadler
NYC Council Member Gale Brewer
NYS Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal